漫友精品图书系列

長歌行

CHANG GE XING

第三卷

编绘 夏达

新世纪出版社

Xía Da

LA PRINCESSE VAGABONDE

LIVRE 3

URBAN CHINA

巻九
交渉
NEGOTIATIONS
WHAT MADE YOU THINK,
THAT I WOULDN'T KILL YOU ALL?

YOU ARE THE VIC-TOR
AND I AM THE LOSER. I CANNOT COMPLAIN IF YOU CHOOSE TO KILL ME
HOWEVER, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO KILL THE CITIZENS INSIDE THE CITY WALLS
IF YOU DO,
YOU WILL LOSE EVERY-THING

HE'S AN IDIOT
WAHT THE HELL IS THAT GUY TALKING ABOUT?
HAHA HAHA
SO YOU'PE SAYING THAT YOU STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT US?
TO TELL THE TRUTH,
WE HAVE SET GUNPOWDER CHARGES THROUGHOUT THE CITY
IF YOU DO NOT KILL THE CITIZENS, WE WILL NOT RESIST
BUT, IF YOU MUST RESORT TO GENOCIDE ..

WE PLAN ON TURNING SHUO PROVINCE ALONGSIDE YOUR ARMY INTO DUST
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE GOOD ADVICE
I HATE BEING THREATENED

NO, WE'RE NOT THREATENING YOU
WE'RE JUST LAYING OUT OUR CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER
I HEARD THAT THE PEOPLE OF HAN PLACE HIGH VALUE ON STRATEGISTS
ARE YOU ONE?
ズサッ
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE MAKING CONDITIONS

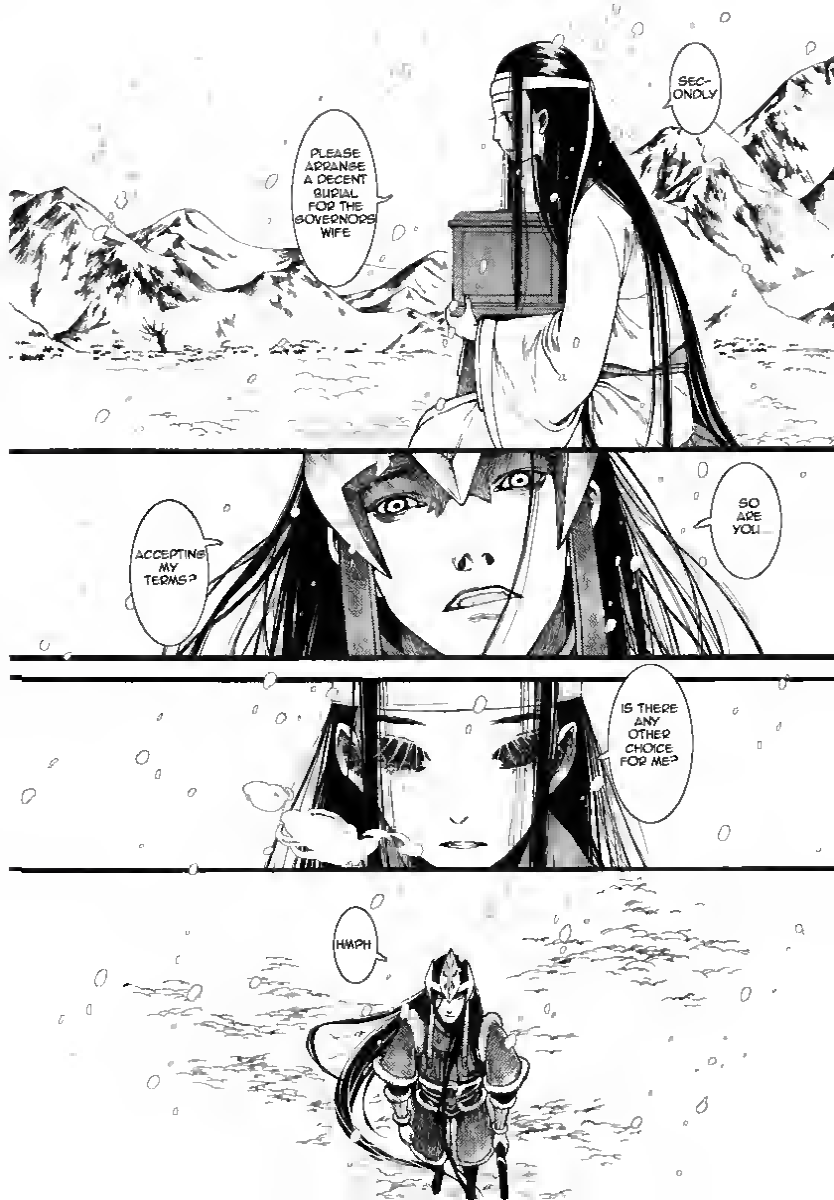
WILL YOU BECOME MY DOG?
IF YOU DO, I WILL FORGO KILLING THE CITIZENS
.....
WHY DOESN'T HE KILL HIM?
HUH? WHY?

SO, WHAT WILL IT BE?
I DON'T LIKE WAITING
CHANG AN

APPARENTLY IT FELL SEVERAL DAYS AGO
WHAT HAPPENED TO SHUO PROVINCE?
WHY WASN'T I INFORMED OF THIS?
IS THAT THE ONLY REASON?
"CUT THE TAIL TO SAVE THE BODY", IT IS THE STRATEGY THAT MY EMPEROR HAS TALKED OF BEFORE
CUT ONE OFF AND STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSES OF THE REST
THE TURKS WERE LONGING FOR ANOTHER TARGET AFTER THEY FAILED TO TAKE OVER CHANGAN

YES, THAT IS THE ONLY REASON
GONGSUN HENG OF SHUO PROVINCE, PLACED IMPORTANCE ON FARMING, MAINTAINED A GOOD ARMY, AND
CARED WELL FOR HIS PEOPLE
TRULY A SHAME
YOU'RE TRICKY...

...A SHAME
SO
CAN I ASK MY LORD OF TWO FAVORS?
FIRST
YOU ARE FREE TO PILLAGE THE STORAGE VAULTS, BUT PLEASE DO NOT CAUSE WORRY FOR THE CITIZENS


PLEASE ARRANGE A DECENT BURIAL FOR THE GOVERNOR'S WIFE
SEC-ONDLY
ACCEPTING MY TERMS?
SO ARE YOU...
IS THERE ANY OTHER CHOICE FOR ME?
HMPH

LET'S GO
COUGH COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
I RESPECTED GONG SUN HENG AS A HERO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TO SET UP A DECENT BURIAL FOR HIM, IT WILL ALREADY BE DONE
AND I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE CITIZENS OR THEIR STUFF

COME ALONG STRATEGIST
DON'T MAKE ANY STRANGE MOVEMENTS
YOU'RE GONNA BE WALKING AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE

GRANPA QIN
WHEN WILL MY MOTHER AND FATHER JOIN ME
KEEP IT ON
I'M NOT COLD
GRAMPS

I'M GOING BACK
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE A BURDEN TO HER
WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU GET THERE?
I CAN'T LEAVE THE NOBLEMAN ALONE LIKE THAT
I'M GOING TO SAVE HER
SAVE HER?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU TWO,
I WOULD NEVER LEFT SHUO PROVINCE
YOUNG MAN
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M A BURDEN TO YOU?

BRAVERY RESPONSIBILITY BOTH ARE IMPORTANT
BUT ARE ONLY WORTH A DAMN IF YOU ARE SKILLED
YOU'RE STILL TOO UNSKILLED

DAMN IT
ENJO PROVINCE
THERE'S QUITE A BIT. WOULD YOU CARE TO LOOK?
I'VE RESEARCHED IT
THIS IS THE MANIFEST
SO?

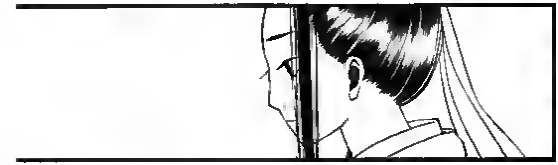
I DON'T LIKE THE LETTERS OF THE HAN
HURRY AND PLACE THE SPOILS ONTO THE HORSES
SHOULDN'T WE TAKE CARE OF THE GUNPOWDER CHARGES?
LEAVE THEM BE
I'M ANXIOUS ABOUT THAT GUY
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO TAKE THAT SICK PERSON ALONE?
OF COURSE
WHERE IS HE ANYWAYS?
PROLLY AT THE GRAVE-YARD CRYING

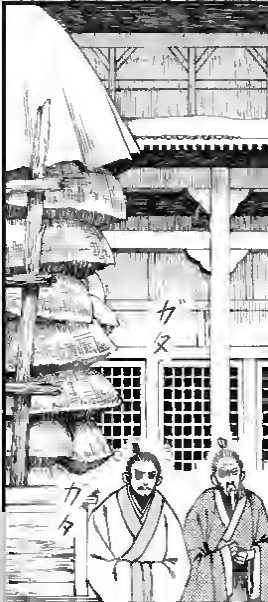
THIS WAS NOT YOUR FAULT
BECAUSE WE WERE LACKING
THIS HAPPENED
YOU GUYS STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR AN ENVOY FROM CHANGAN
TURKS USUALLY LEAVE AFTER THEY'VE PLUNDERED A CITY
ARE YOU TRULY LEAVING WITH THEM
IF YOU WEREN'T HERE, THIS PLACE WOULD BE A BLOOD-BATH
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO ASK
DO NOT WORRY

I WILL NOT DO ANYTHING THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR ENEMIES
NO MATTER WHERE I GO
I AM AFTER ALL
A PERSON FROM TANG

ガタガタ

ガタ




ガタ
ガタ

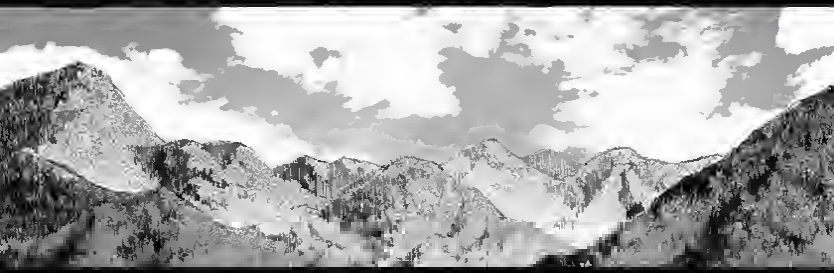
DOGS OF THE TURKS!
YOU TRAITOR!
THE GOVERNOR AND HIS WIFE DIED FOR US!
EVEN BRAZENNESS HAS IT'S LIMITS!
LEARN SOME SHAME!
YOU BETRAYED US TO SAVE YOUR SELF!

HOW DARE YOU!
MY LORD
YOU PROMISED NOT TO HARM THEM
SO DELIBERATE! WE WON'T BE FOOLED BY YOUR ACT!
YOU WANTED TO BURN US TO DEATH, DIDN'T YOU?
COME ON, TRY IT!

HE HE
HARSH, MR STRATE-GIST
COUGH
COUGH
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF?
.....
IN THE END PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE
DOES IT MATTER WHAT THE TRUTH IS?
HEH YOU UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN NATURE, WELL
YEAH
SOME-WHAT...

AS LONG AS THEY HAVE RESENTMENT, THEY CAN SURVIVE
.....
YES
WHEN FEAR AND ANGER HAVE RISEN TO A POINT BEYOND MEASURE,
PEOPLE RESORT TO RESENT-MENT
WHY SIR GONGSUN NEVER CARED TO PUT ANY IMPORTANCE ON THE WHIM OF THE PEOPLE...
I FINALLY UNDER-STAND
THE SHUO PROVINCE BEHIND ME, IS EMPTY

BEHIND THAT... IS JUST A CLUSTER OF MOUNTAINS



AND BEHIND THOSE MOUNTAINS, IS MY HOMELAND,...

CHANGAN

AS I THOUGHT.....

MY DREAM OF EVER RETURNING THERE, WILL GO UNFULLFILLED

AIZEN-SENSEI HERE

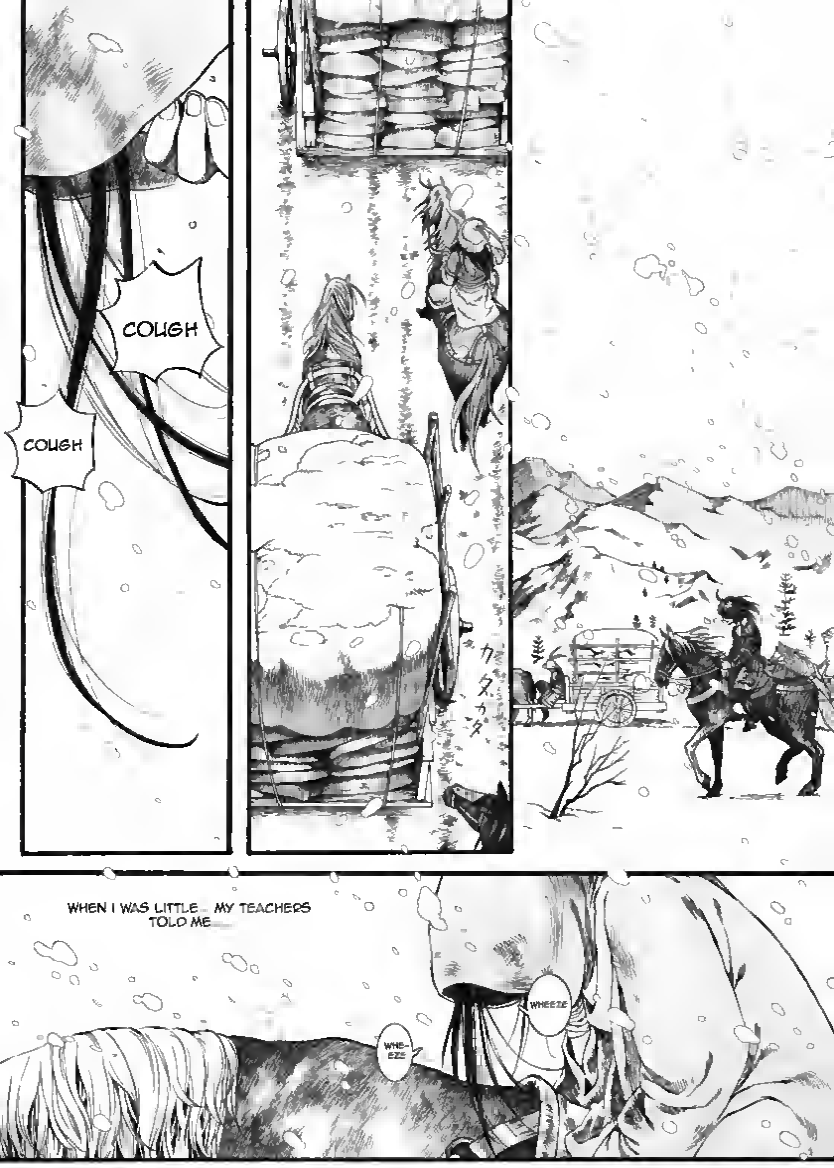
3 CHAPTERS RELEASED AGAIN.

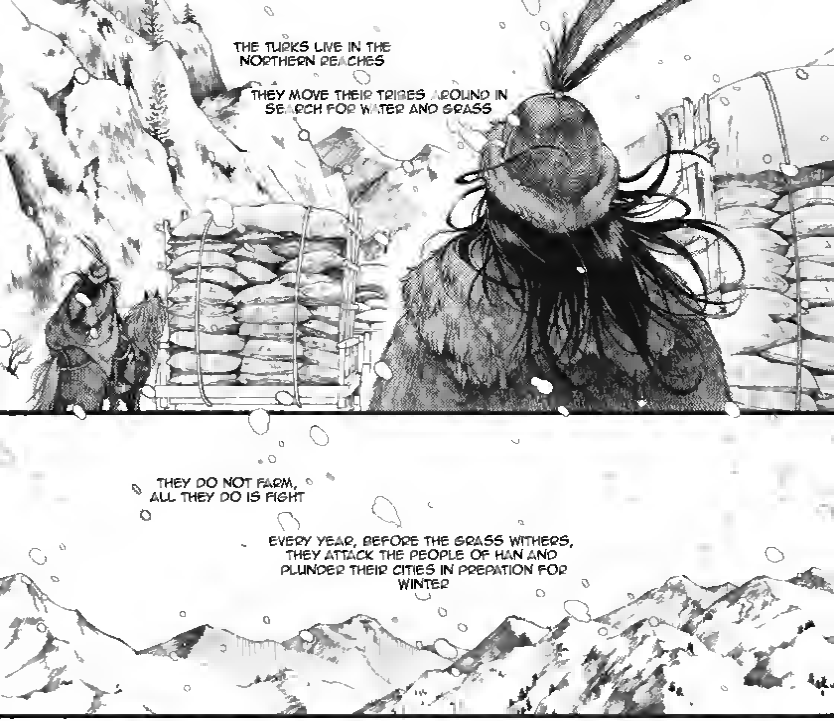
ENJOY :)

巻拾 金髪の娘

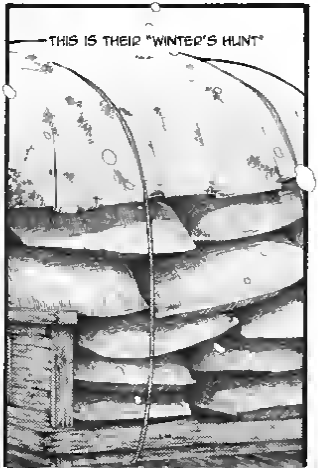
THE WOMAN WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR

ガタ
ガタガタ
ガタ

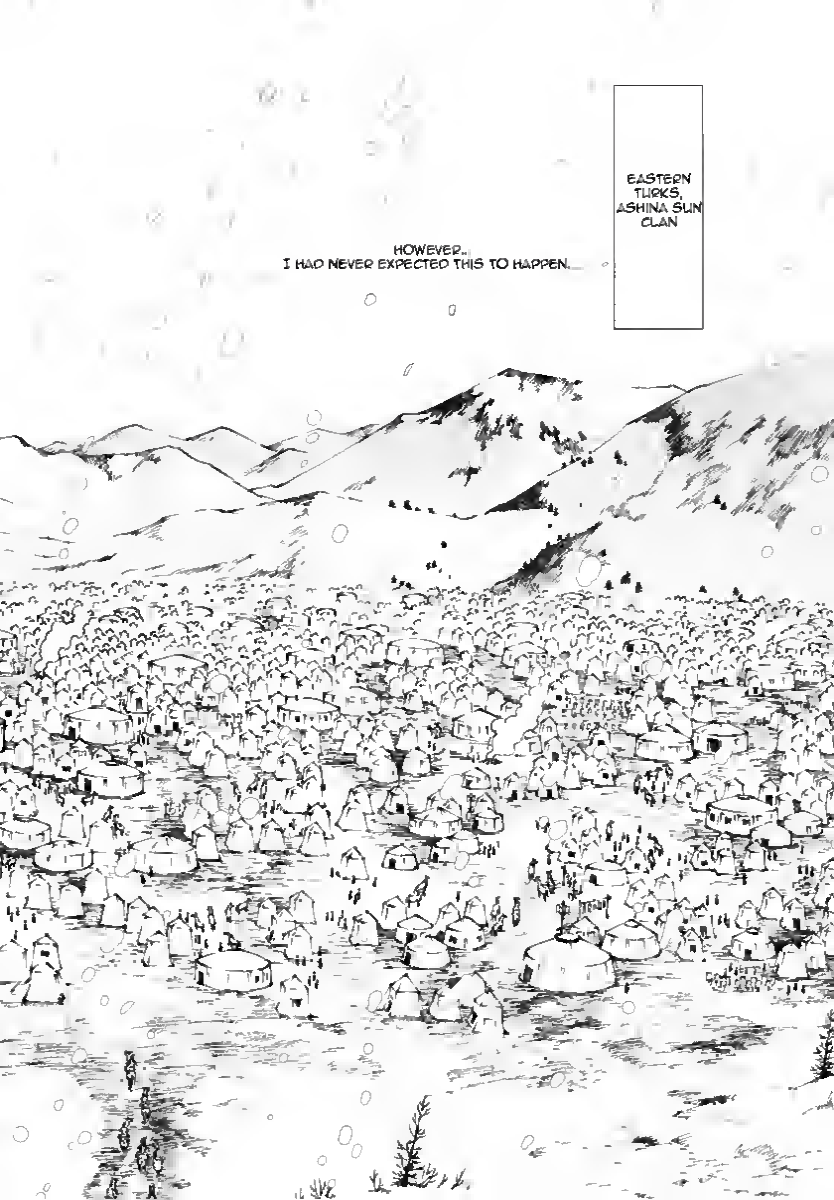

COUGH
COUGH
カタカタ
WHEN I WAS LITTLE... MY TEACHERS TOLD ME...
WHEEZE
WHE-EZE

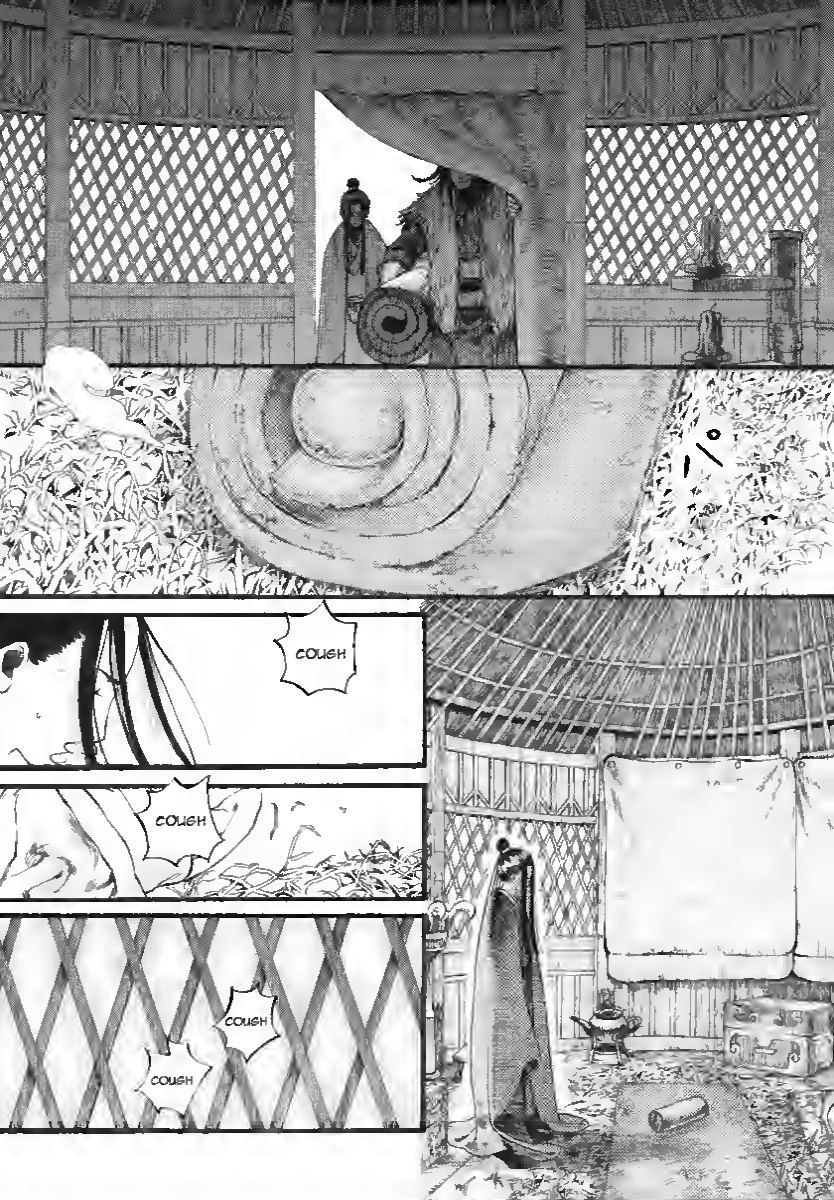

THE TURKS LIVE IN THE NORTHERN REACHES
THEY MOVE THEIR TRIBES AROUND IN SEARCH FOR WATER AND GRASS
THEY DO NOT FARM, ALL THEY DO IS FIGHT
EVERY YEAR, BEFORE THE GRASS WITHERS, THEY ATTACK THE PEOPLE OF HAN AND PLUNDER THEIR CITIES IN PREPATION FOR WINTER

AT THE TIME, I WAS ONLY LISTENING WITH DISINTEREST...



I HAD NOT GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT...


EASTERN TURKS, ASHINA SUN CLAN
HOWEVER..
I HAD NEVER EXPECTED THIS TO HAPPEN...


cough
cough
cough
cough

I CAN'T MOVE....

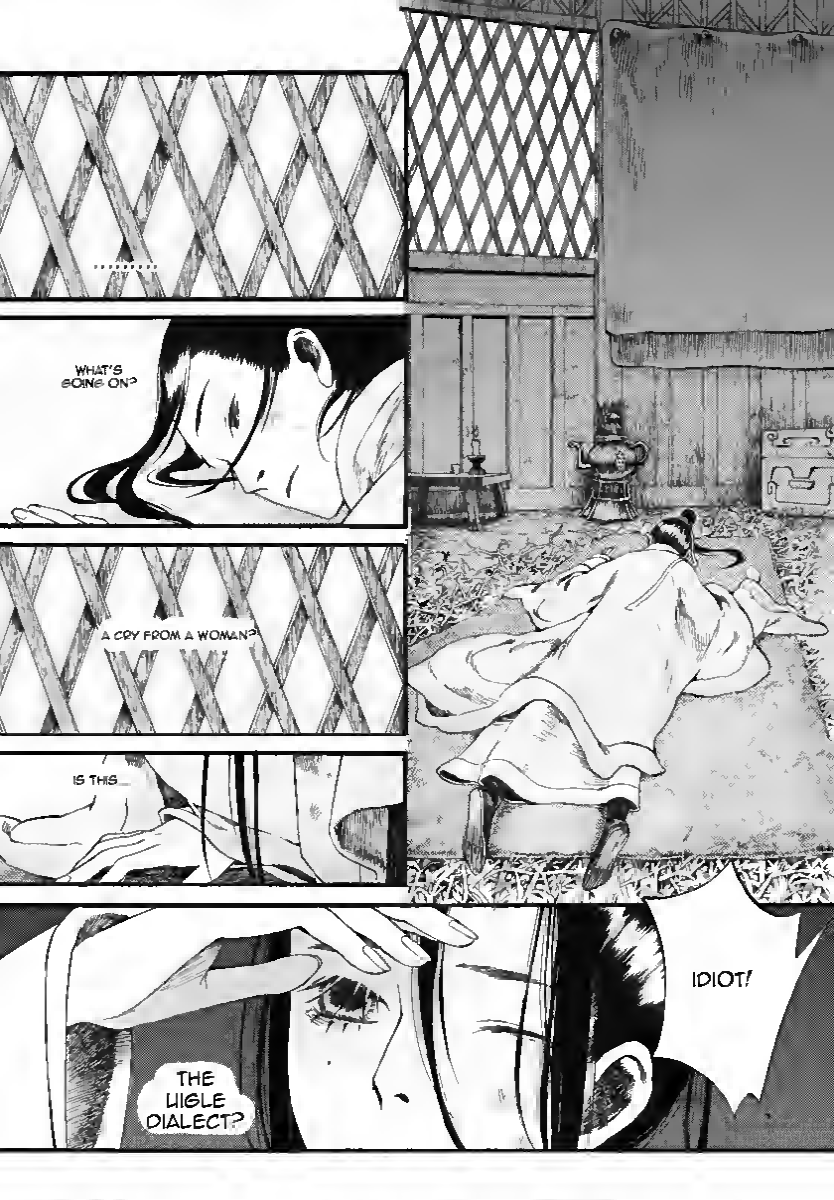
AM I GOING TO DIE HERE?

...BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL AT PEACE....

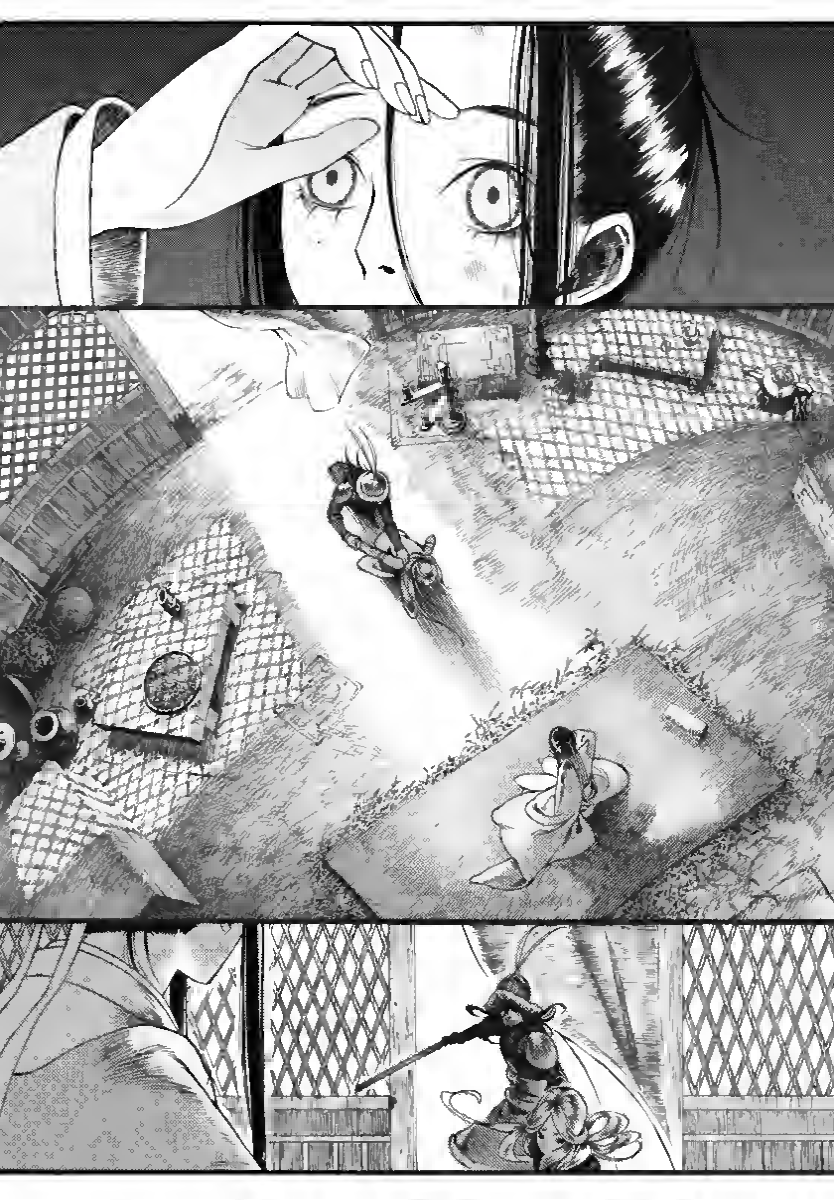
MUJIN
THE KHAN HAS SENT US GOLD AND WOMEN
APPARENTLY ITS A GIFT TO MASTER SUN, BUT
HE HAS TOLD ME TO LET YOU DIVIDE THEM UP

WELL, OUR WAR THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT FROM ONES WE'VE HAD IN THE PAST, SO...
YEAH, WE DION'T TAKE ANY WOMEN OR SLAVES THIS TIME AROUND
SHALL I SEND THE WOMEN FROM THE KHAN IN THE USUAL MANNER?
YEAH IN THE USUAL MANNER
IT'S BEST TO USE THEM ONCE AND THROW THEM AWAY
STOP!!
CAPTURE HER!!!

STOP!!
KEEP AN EYE ON THEM! IF ANY TRY TO RUN, KILL THEM!
KYAAH!
THIS IS GETTING TROUBLESOME. IF THE KHAN'S MESSENGER HEARS OF THIS, WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE
HURRY UP AND DO SOME-THING


.....
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A CRY FROM A WOMAN?
IS THIS...
IDIOT!
THE HIGLE DIALECT?

YOU TURKS ARE HEARTLESS BASTARDS!!



LET HER GO
LET GO OF HER

BOTH THE GREAT AND LESSER KHAN ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF MASTER SUN
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH HIS GIFTS?
THE "WINTER'S HUNT" THIS TIME AROUND, HAS BEEN VERY PLENTIFUL
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THE WOLF GOD, I ALSO HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE GREAT KHAN AS WELL
IT MAY BE TIRESOME FOR YOU, BUT PLEASE, TAKE IT TO HIM

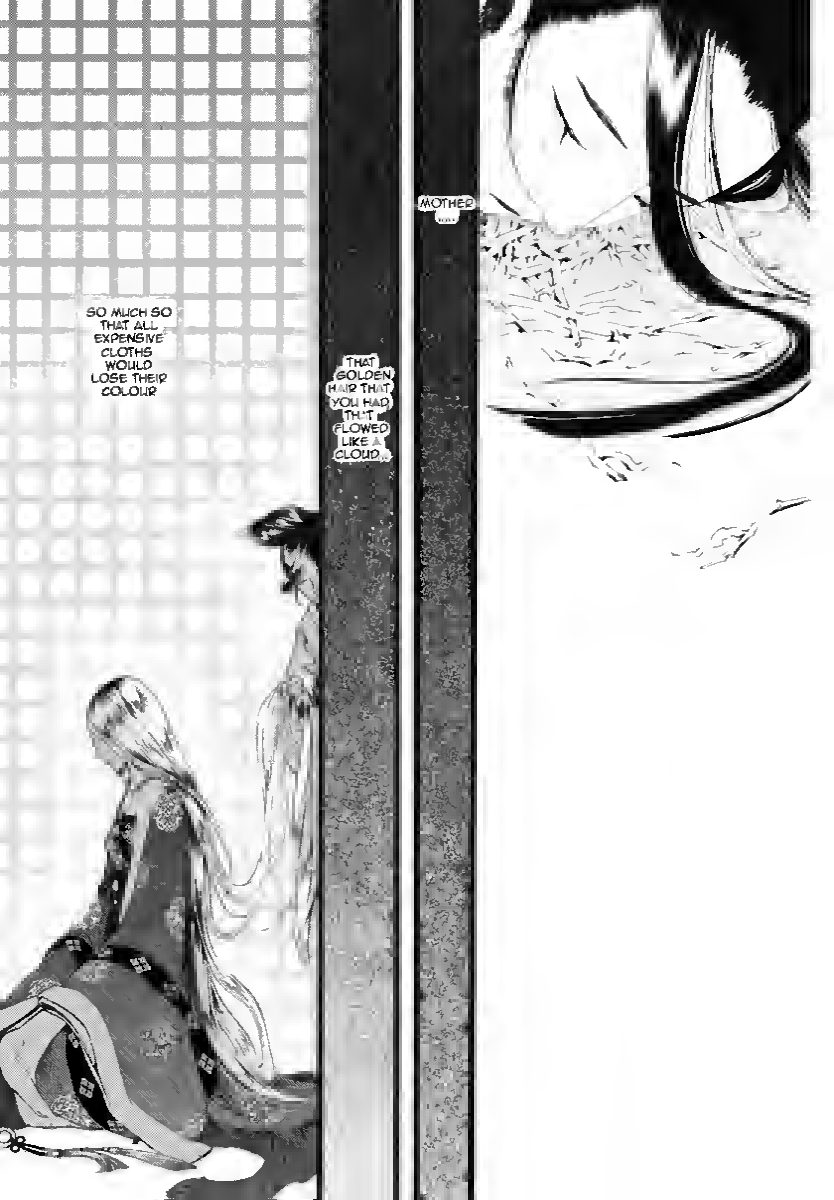
I UNDER-STAND
COUGH
COUGH
MASTER SUN
CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
.....
KID, GET OUT OF THE WAY!
DO YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!

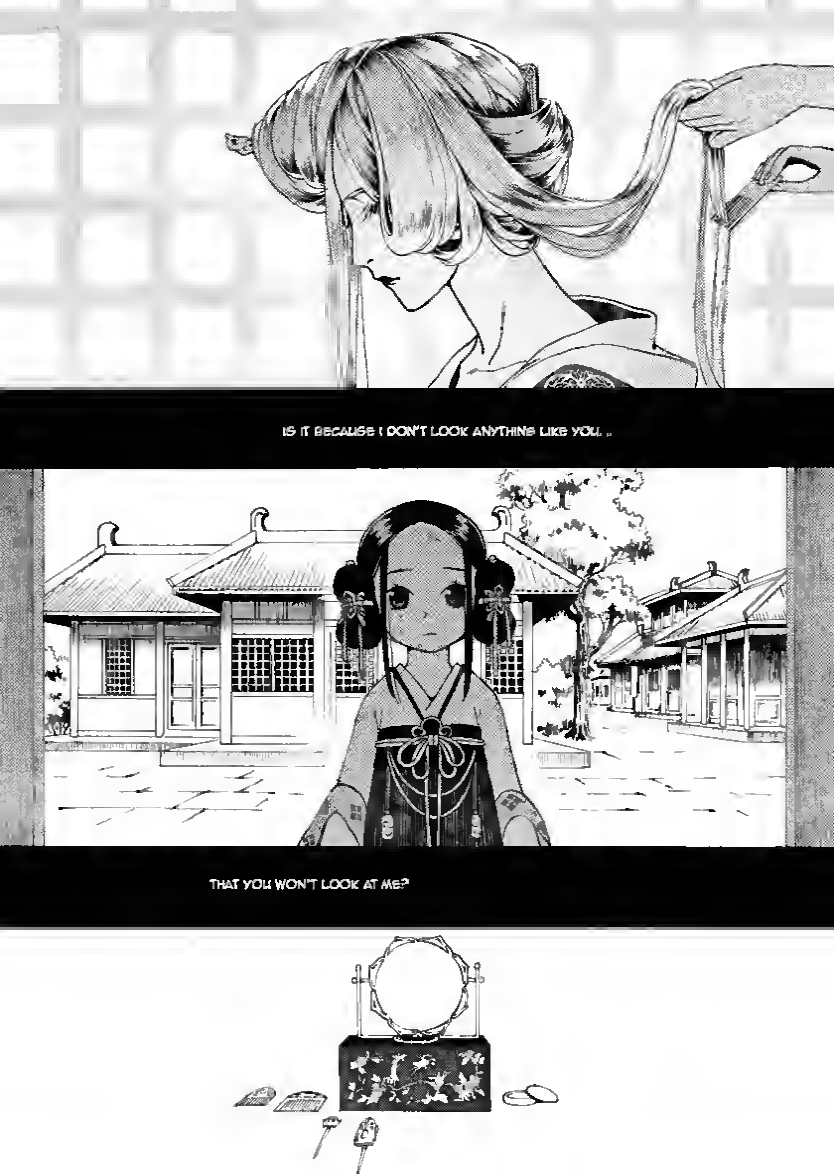
MY LORD
ZOUCH
ZOUCH
MAY I HAVE THIS WOMAN?
TSCH!

HAVE YOU NEVER BEEN WITH A WOMAN BEFORE?
YOU...
WHAT PART OF THIS WOMAN DO YOU FIND SO ATTRACTIVE ABOUT?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HER SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU DO NOT NEED HER, THEN IT IS A WASTE
WILL YOU GIVE HER TO ME?
IF YOU GIVE YOUR DOG A TREAT HE WILL WORK THAT MUCH HARDER...
.....

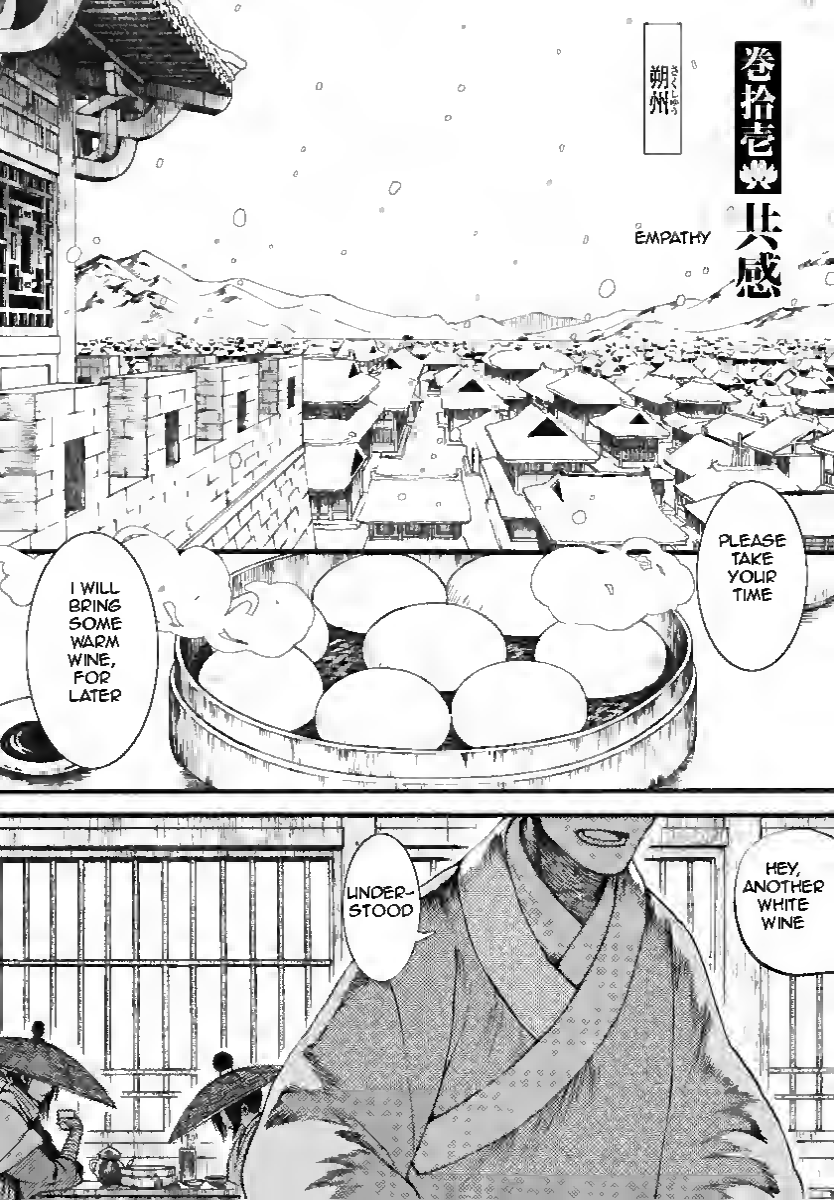
HERE,
YOU NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS WHEN YOU TAKE SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE ELSE
ESPECIALLY IF THAT THING HAS MOUTHS AND EARS
HERE'S ANOTHER TIP, TOO
I'LL BE KEEPING THIS
THE WOMEN ON THIS SIDE OF THE WORLD ARE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
DON'T WORRY
I WILL GAURUNTEE YOUR SAFETY
WHEEZE
WHE-EZE


MOTHER...
THAT GOLDEN HAIR THAT YOU HAD THAT FLOWED LIKE A CLOUD.
SO MUCH SO THAT ALL EXPENSIVE CLOTHS WOULD LOSE THEIR COLOUR


IS IT BECAUSE I DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE YOU...
THAT YOU WON'T LOOK AT ME?

MOTHER, „I WILL WORK MY HARDEST
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT BE PICKED ON BY OTHER PEOPLE
バシャッ


巻拾壱
共感
EMPATHY
朔州
PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME
I WILL BRING SOME WARM WINE, FOR LATER
HEY, ANOTHER WHITE WINE
UNDER-STOOD

THAT GUY DIRTIED THE GOOD NAME OF
BUT DAMN, I WISH THAT CAPTAIN LI WOULD DIE
SIR GONG SUN HENG
CALM DOWN
THANK GOD THE TURKS DIDN'T TAKE OUR FOOD THIS TIME AROUND
YEAH
WE NEED TO BE PATIENT

IT LOOKS LIKE A NEW GOVERNOR IS COMING
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE BULLETIN BOARD ON THE GATES?
APPARENTLY IT'S A CHANCELLOR WHO IS WELL TRUSTED BY THE EMPEROR, COMING FROM CHANGAN DIRECTLY
I HOPE HE'S A SMART PERSON
I'D HATE FOR HIM TO END UP LIKE MASTER GONG SUN AGAIN
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AROUND BUT ALL WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER IS THAT SHE WAS TAKEN BY THE TURKS
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN AFFORD TO SIT AROUND WITHOUT GOING TO SEARCH FOR HER?

FIRST OFF
THE TURKS ARE NOMADIC, WE DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHERE THEY ARE, IT'S LIKE SEARCHING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK
SECONDLY, I BELIEVE THE TURKS DO NOT INTENT DO KILL THE PRINCESS, SO IT SHOULD BE SAFE FOR HER, FOR NOW ATLEAST
OLD MAN QIN WAS SAYING THAT THE PRINCESS IS ILL
IF WE DON'T SAVE HER, SHE MIGHT DIE OF HER ILLNESS
.....
LET'S GO BACK AND TALK IT OVER WITH MISTER QIN
HOW-EVER, I AM MORE WORRIED ABOUT ANOTHER MATTER
LET'S GO

IF THE PRINCESS DOES MANAGE TO ESCAPE,
SHE WILL DEFINATELY COME AND SEARCH FOR US
HOWEVER, IF SHE ENTERS SHUO PROVINCE IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR HER
HIS BODY IS HOT, BUT HIS SWEAT IS COLD

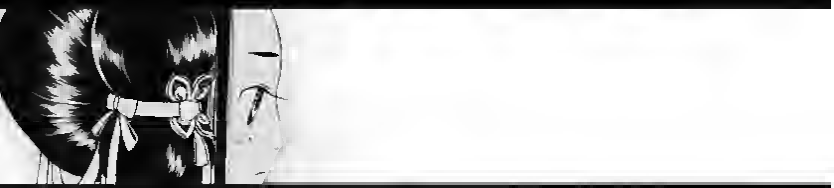
MY BROTHER DIED IN A SIMILAR MANNER, BEFORE
WHAT DID MY MOTHER DO AT THE TIME?
WIPE HIS BODY DOWN WITH A STRONG ALCOHOL
HANG IN THERE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!!
THAT'S RIGHT, ALCOHOL!

CHANG
CAN I ASK A FAVOR FROM YOU
YOUR BROTHERS AREN'T VERY USEFUL
FATHER……
CAN YOU HELP YOUR FATHER OUT
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU EVER SPOKE TO ME LIKE THIS

I WAS SO HAPPY

BUT...
WE CANNOT TRUST THE TURKS, WE SHOULD NOT HAVE A PEACE TREATY WITH THEM!
HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY SEND A DAUGHTER OF THE LI FAMILY, IN EXCHANGE FOR SUCH A FLIMSY ALLIANCE PROPOSAL?
IMPO-SSIBLE!
MY UNCLE WAS EXTREMELY MAD

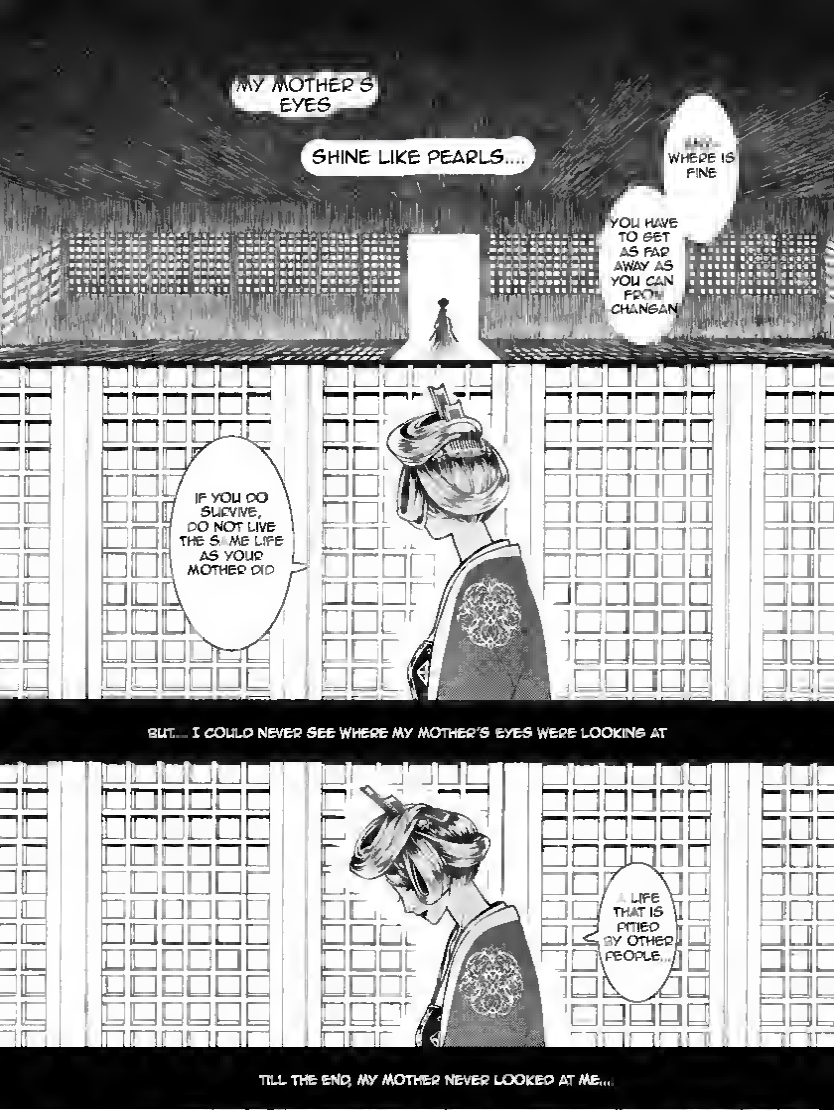
I SHALL SEND YOU PEARLS AND GOLD AS A REWARD FOR SUCH BRAVERY, ALTHOUGH YOUR STATUS WILL REMAIN THE SAME
IN ANY CASE, I AM HIGHLY TOUCHED THAT THE YONGING PRINCESS HAS TAKEN IT UPON HERSELF TO SACRIFICE HER LIFE LIKE THIS
LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE PEACE TREATY. I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU TWO BROTHERS FIGHT
OKAY OKAY
MY GRANDFATHER LOOKED HAPPY... I WAS HAPPY, TOO, EVERYONE ELSE WAS HAPPY


ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

MOTHER...

AREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT.....
I OFICCIALLY BECAME A PRINCESS?
WHY IS IT THAT WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I FEEL...S THOUGH I HAVE DONE THE WRONG THING?

NO WAY!

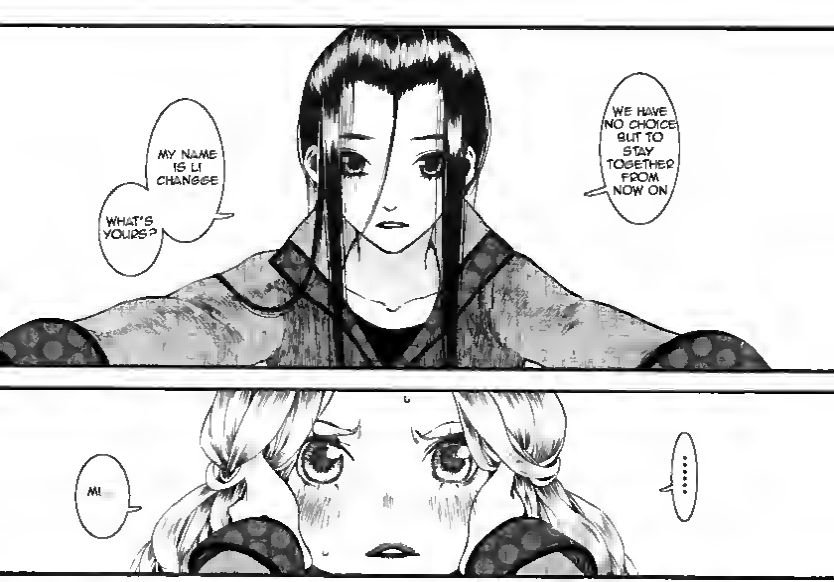

MY MOTHER'S EYES
SHINE LIKE PEARLS....
WHERE IS FINE
YOU HAVE TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN FROM CHANGAN
IF YOU DO SURVIVE, DO NOT LIVE THE SAME LIFE AS YOUR MOTHER DID
BUT.... I COULD NEVER SEE WHERE MY MOTHER'S EYES WERE LOOKING AT
A LIFE THAT IS PITIED BY OTHER PEOPLE...
TILL THE END, MY MOTHER NEVER LOOKED AT ME....

DID I ...
DISSAPOINTED YOU, THAT BADLY?

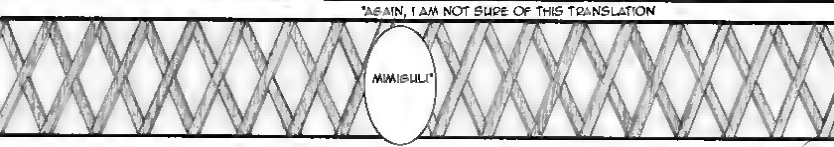
YOU'RE A WOMAN!
YOU LIAR!
.....
I'M GOING TO TELL THEM WHAT YOU ARE
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?
.....
IDIOT! I THOUGHT I HAD FINALLY FOUND A GOOD MAN

I CAN BE AS RELIABLE AS A MAN, TOO
IT'S COMPLE-TELY DIFFERENT
MY MOTHER WAS ALSO OF UBLE DECENT
BUT I NEVER ASKED HER ABOUT HER PAST
SHE WAS SAVED IN THE MIDST OF RATTLE
AND EVER SINCE SHE MARRIED MY FATHER

SHE NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO RETURN TO HER HOME-LAND
ARE YOU A TURK RIGHT NOW? OR A UIGLE? OR A HAN?
RIGHT NOW, I'M A DOG OF THE TURKS, THE BETRAY TO THE HAN AND... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM TO THE UIGLE...
.....
MAS-TER
THE TURKS ARE THE MASTERS OF THE UIGLE
LISTEN CARE-FULLY
I WILL PROTECT YOU AT ALL COST



*AGAIN, I AM NOT SURE OF THIS TRANSLATION



THIS IS BAD
I KNOW, WE SHOULD GO AND SEARCH FOR HER, IMMEDIATELY!
IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE, THEN WE CAN HIDE SOME MORE!
IF WE DO THAT THE PRINCESS WILL BE IN DANGER
THERES NO USE IN LETTING @ON@SUN'S FORTUNE TO WASTE
HMMM
I SEE

SIR QIN, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GO HIRE SOME PEOPLE?
I'LL COME WITH YOU!
HUH?
YES!
IN A DIFFERENT MEANING, THOUGH
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
IT'S EXTREMELY HARD TO SEARCH FOR PEOPLE IN THE LAND OF THE TURKS WITHOUT THEM KNOWING
HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE WAY WE CAN SAFELY SEARCH FOR HER
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, WE NEED SOME MONEY TO START OFF WITH. BUT THANKFULLY WE HAVE THAT
I'M TALKING ABOUT TRADE

SIR QIN,
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT KIND OF TRADE?
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE "MERCHANT CITIES"?
THE PLACE AT THE EDGES OF OUR COUNTRY WHERE WE DO TRADE WITH THE TURKS?
THE TURKS TRADE THEIR HORSES AND THE HAN TRADE THEIR TEA AND FOOD
HOWEVER LATELY THERE ARE FEWER MERCHANT CITIES LIKE THIS AND SO A NEW FORM OF TRADE HAS BEGUN
A BLACK MARKET TRADE BETWEEN THE TURKS AND THE HAN
THE BLACK MARKET ARE CAPABLE OF ENTERING AND EXITING THE TURK'S LAND FREELY AND IT'S POSSIBLY TO CREATE VERY GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH THE KHAN
HOWEVER PASSING THROUGH THESE UNOFFICIAL TRADE ROUTES COST MONEY AND IS DANGEROUS
ARE YOU THINKING OF STARTING A NEW TRADE ROUTE WITH JUST US SIR QIN?
WHO CARES, LET'S DO IT!
LET'S TRY IT OUT
NOW, I WONDER HOW FAR I CAN GET, THIS TIME AROUND...

IT'S BEEN OVER 10 YEARS, SO...
THE TERRAIN AND MY PREVIOUS CONNECTIONS HAVE PROBABLY ALL CHANGED BY NOW
SIR QIN
YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE?
MY SECOND OWNER WANTED TO RULE THE LANDS, SO HE HAD ME GO OUT AND DO QUITE A FEW THINGS
WE GAINED SOLDIERS AND SUPPLIES THROUGH THE BLACK MARKET
THE "YANHANG MEN" WAS TRULY AMAZING
THE...THE YANHANG MEN?
THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK MARKET GROUP THAT APPEARED AND DISSAPEARED 10 YEARS AGO?
OLD MAN, I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE AMAZED BY YOU!

YOU STILL HAVE LOT'S TO LEARN
THE PRINCESS HASN'T EVEN TURNED 15 YET
SHE'S ONLY 2 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU
IN THE PAST, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAD LOST AGAINST THE LI FAMILY
WHEN I MET THE PRINCESS, I UNDERSTOOD HOW THE LI FAMILY HAD TAKEN HOLD OF THE KINGDOM
IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT WE WERE GOING TO LOSE
I'LL TRY MY HARDEST TO LEARN
OLD MAN, TEACH ME EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW

I TOO HAVE A KINGDOM THAT I WANT TO TAKE OVER!
LOOK
IT'S THAT GIRL AGAIN

I STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY
TODAYS FOOD RATIONS
OH
SO THAT GUY'S STILL ALIVE?
FOOD!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
BOTH MEAT AND WINE,
AREN'T GIVEN TO PEOPLE WHO ARE USELESS!

HEY!
NOW, NOW
HE IS SOMEONE WHO MASTER SUN BROUGHT HOME WITH AFTER ALL
BUT ONCE THAT KID DIES THEN THE WOMAN
BECOMES OURS, RIGHT

DON'T WORRY, I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW
REALLY
.....
YOU'RE AWAKE!?
OH, YOU'RE BACK?
I DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU LIVE OR DIE
IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU, THAT I SURVIVED
TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO MEET THE GENERAL
THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE

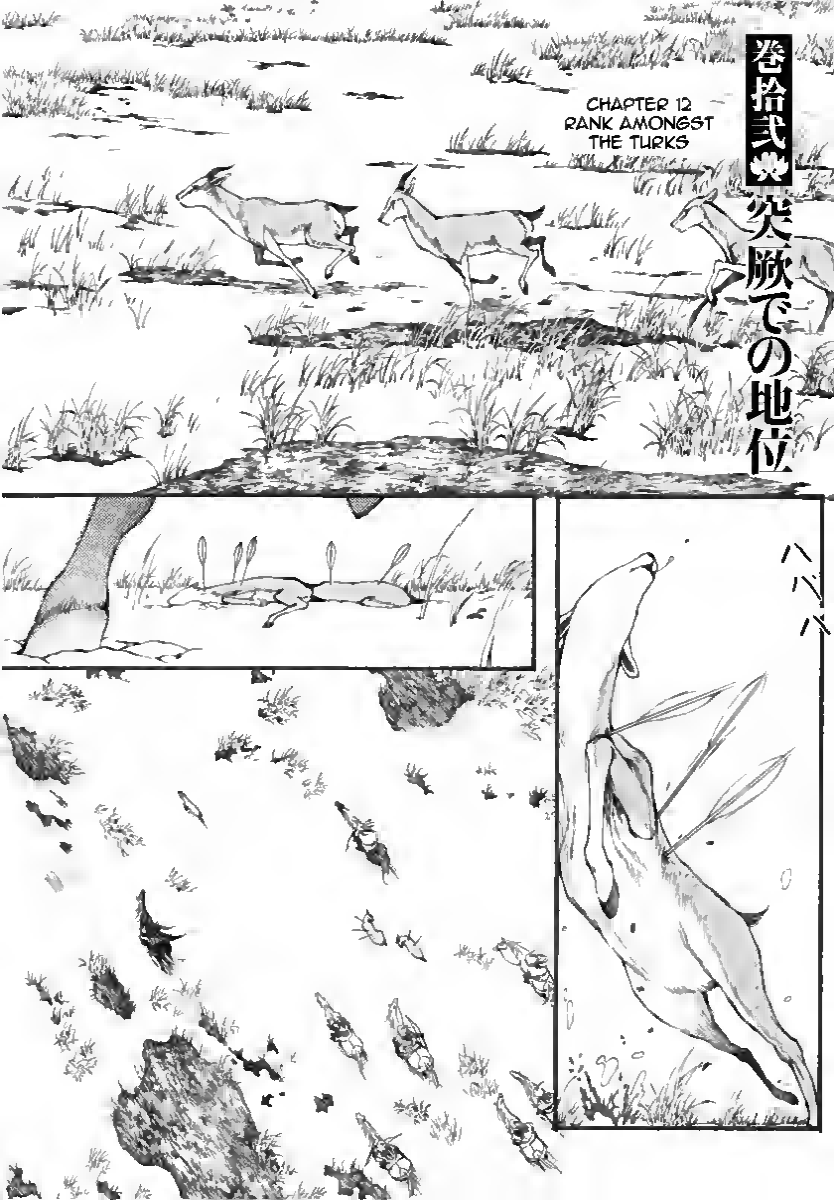
WHY ARE YOU GOING TO HIM?
I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT I DON'T LIKE SITTING AROUND WAITING TO DIE OUT HERE
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN I DONT HAVE CONTROL
FROM NOW ON, YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE ANYMORE
I'VE HAD A GOOD REST
NOW I NEED TO THINK WHAT I SHOULD DO FROM NOW ON
長歌行 弐（完）

AIZEN HERE

SORRY FOR THE
LITTLE HIATUS,
WAS READING
TOWER OF GOD
AND NOBLESSE...
DAMN THERE WERE
A LOT OF CHAPTERS

ANYWAYS, THUS ENDS
VOLUME 2.

cover design 森田彩美(POCKET)

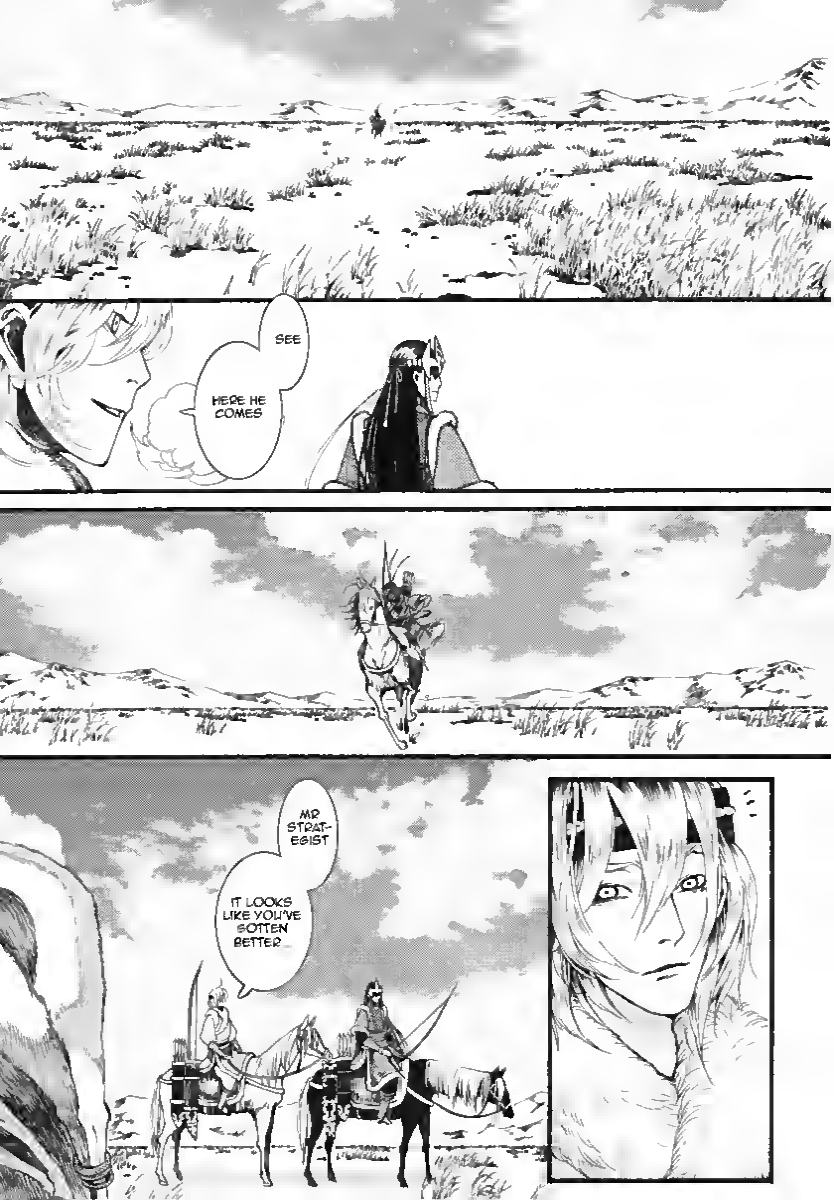

CHAPTER 12
RANK AMONGST
THE TURKS
巻拾弐
突厥での地位
ハッ

DAMNIT!
AGAIN!

TSCH
YOU SHOULD GIVE IT UP MASTER SUN'S EYES ARE A HAWKS EYES GIFTED FROM THE HEAVENS!
IT'S NOT OVER YET!
WHO WAS THE ONE WHO SAID THAT THIS YEAR, IT'LL BE DIFFERENT?
WE STILL HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE IT GETS DARK, THE BATTLES JUST BEGUN!
SO, SO!
DAMNIT, HURRY UP!
ON WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?
FOR NOW, I'M LEAVING IT BE
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO MEET HIM? YOU'VE BROUGHT HIM OVER, BUT LEFT HIM SITTING IN THE WIND. WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH HIM?
THAT LITTLE HAN KID HAS BEEN REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME

HE WAS SO CALM AND COLLECTED AT THE BEGINNING, BUT NOW HE'S STARTING TO SWEAT
I'M RATHER ENJOYING SEEING HIM LIKE THIS
EVEN THOUGH HE'S LEARNED ABOUT TACTICS, IN THE END SUCH TRICKS AREN'T OF MUCH USE, RIGHT?
.....
THAT KID KEPT ASKING TO SEE YOU, AND HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO US
I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT
INCOME HIM
GENERAL SUN!
MASTER SUN!
S... BUT I COULD NOT STOP HIM
HE TOOK A HORSE AND A BOW AND WENT OFF

.....
GENERAL!
MASTER SUN!
20 LASHES WITH THE WHIP!
TAKE HIM AWAY!
HE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE, AND I DOUBT HE'S THAT STUPID
HE HAS NO FOOD, AND NO MAP
WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT ONE LITTLE KID, ANYWAYS
WE SHOULD JUST WAIT FOR HIM
IS SOMEONE NEAR
HE CANNOT GET AWAY


SEE
HERE HE COMES
MR STRATEGIST
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, I HAVE BECOME WELL AGAIN
MY LORD, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROTECTION
AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING HARD WHY YOU REFUSE TO SEE ME
I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOU WISH ME TO GATHER MY OWN FOOD

COUGH
PFFT
SO, HAVE I FULFILLED MY LORD'S WISHES?
THE WILL OF MY LORD IS ALSO WELL UNDERSTOOD BETWEEN YOUR SUBORDINATES, WHICH HAS TAUGHT ME MUCH
YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO ME
ABOUT WHAT?
I AM YOUR SUBORD-INATE
I MUST DETERMINE WHAT VALUE I AM TO YOU
MY ONLY SKILL THAT I HAVE IS MY INTELLIGENCE AND I CAN ONLY BE OF USE TO YOU AS A STRATTEGIST
WHAT VALUE COULD YOU POSSIBLY HOLD,
WHEN YOU'VE ALREADY LOST A WAR?

IT APPEARS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO MOVE THE CAMP AGAIN?
YOUR LOSSES WERE NOT SMALL, IN THE LAST BATTLE. AND YET YOU HAVE NOT EVEN RESTED FOR A MONTH
I HAD BEEN WONDERING WHY THIS WHOLE TIME
WHY A UNIT AS EXPERIENCED AS THIS, WAS SENT IN TO MERELY DISTRACT?
MY LORD'S UNIT IS NOT ONE THAT IS USED TO BESIEGING, NOR DOES IT HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE AGAINST THE HAN
IT APPEARS THAT THE GREAT KHAN NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN YOUR WIN OR LOSS?
HOWEVER,
I STILL BELIEVE THAT I CAN BE OF USE TO YOU

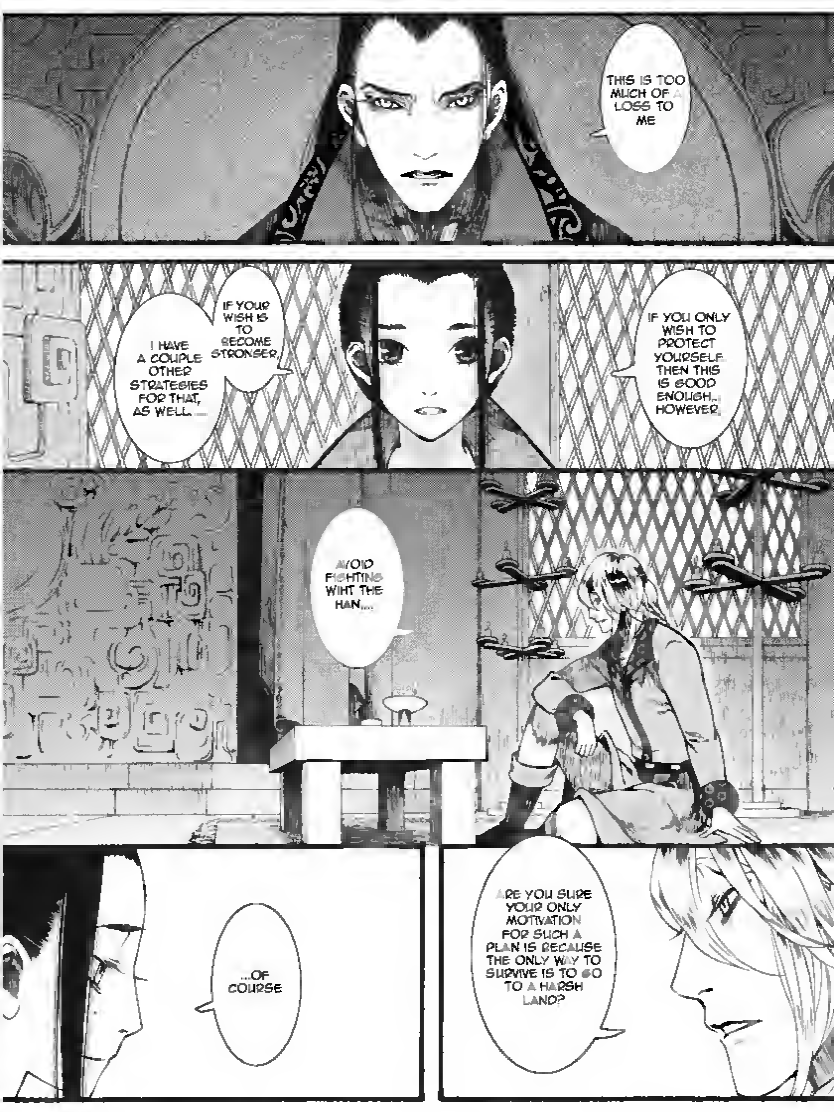
WE'LL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT
IF WE CAN TRUST YOU, THAT IS
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU
WE'RE GOING INSIDE TO TALK
COME ALONG

I'LL SAY THIS FROM THE START
ALL I WANT TO DO IS TO PROTECT MY SELF I OWE THE GREAT KHAN MY LIFE FOR RAISING ME. I WILL NOT DO ANYTHING THAT WILL HARM HIM
.....
OF COURSE
THE KILLINGS BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS THAT THE HAN LIKE TO DO SO MUCH, DOES NOT OCCUR, HERE
I, TOO, WANT TO PROTECT MYSELF
THERE IS NO EGG THAT DOESN'T CRACK WHEN IT FALLS OUT OF IT'S NEST FROM A TREE, RIGHT?
SO WHAT IS IT THAT MY LORD WISHES?
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE GREAT KHAN'S POSITION, NOR DO I WISH TO BE CAUGHT UP IN ANY SUCCESSION WAR
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO SO THAT THEY WILL LEAVE US ALONE?
I WANT TO BE LEFT OUT OF IT ALL

IF ONE CANNOT USE THAT WEAPON IT WOULD BE THE SAFEST ROUTE TO TAKE, TO GET RID OF IT
FOR THOSE THAT WISH THE TITLE OF GREAT KHAN, MY LORD'S ARMY IS LIKE A WEAPON
THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AS LONG AS MY LORD IS COMMANDING A LARGE ARMY
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY BLUNTNESS, BUT MY LORD, WHO IS ONLY A ADOPTED SON SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM ANY INTERNAL CONFLICTS. AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN THE DARK ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON
THE GREAT KHAN HAS USED BOTH KINDNESS AND HARSHNESS IN ORDER TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM REBELLING AGAINST HIM AND IF HE SENDS MY LORD OUT TO BATTLE, HE WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR ARMY WILL NOT BECOME TOO STRONG
MY LORD HAS PLEDGED HIS LOYALTY TO THE GREAT KHAN, BUT WHAT DOES THE GREAT KHAN, THINK ABOUT YOU? WHAT DO THE OTHER FAMILLY MEMBERS THINK ABOUT YOU?
WHO TOLD YOU WHAT THE GREAT KHAN WAS THINKING ABOUT?
WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?
.....

KINGS OF THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SIMILAR IN THEIR WAY OF THOUGHT
JUST BY LOOKING AT WHAT THE GREAT KHAN HAS DONE, I KNOW WHAT HE IS TRYING TO DO
I LEARNED FROM OBSERVATION WITH THESE EYES
MY LORD,
IT IS DANGEROUS TO DOUBT WHAT I SAID
.....
SO,
HOW DO WE AVOID BEING CAUGHT UP IN IT?

IT WOULD BE BEST IF MY LORD AVOIDS FIGHTING WITH THE HAN
AND ASK TO BE DEPLOYED IN THE FAR NORTHERN REACHES
WITHIN THE STRATEGY OF THE HAN, THERE IS A SAYING THAT SURVIVAL EXISTS IN THE MOST HARSHEST OF PLACES
THE NORTHERN REACHES IS BARREN AND DEVOID OF MONEY AND SLAVES SO YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE YOUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT
IF MY LORD PERSONALLY ASKS TO BE SENT BOTH THE GREAT KHAN AND THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE RELEIVED
FURTHERMORE THERE ARE NO BATTLES IN THE NORTHERN AREAS SO UPKEEP OF YOUR SOLDIERS WILL BE EASY


THIS IS TOO MUCH OF A LOSS TO ME
IF YOUR WISH IS TO BECOME STRONGER,
I HAVE A COUPLE OTHER STRATEGIES FOR THAT, AS WELL...
IF YOU ONLY WISH TO PROTECT YOURSELF, THEN THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH... HOWEVER,
AVOID FIGHTING WIHT THE HAN...
...OF COURSE
ARE YOU SURE YOUR ONLY MOTIVATION FOR SUCH A PLAN IS BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IS TO GO TO A HARSH LAND?

I STILL HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF HAN, LEFT IN ME, TOO
WHY AREN'T YOU GOING INSIDE?
BECAUSE

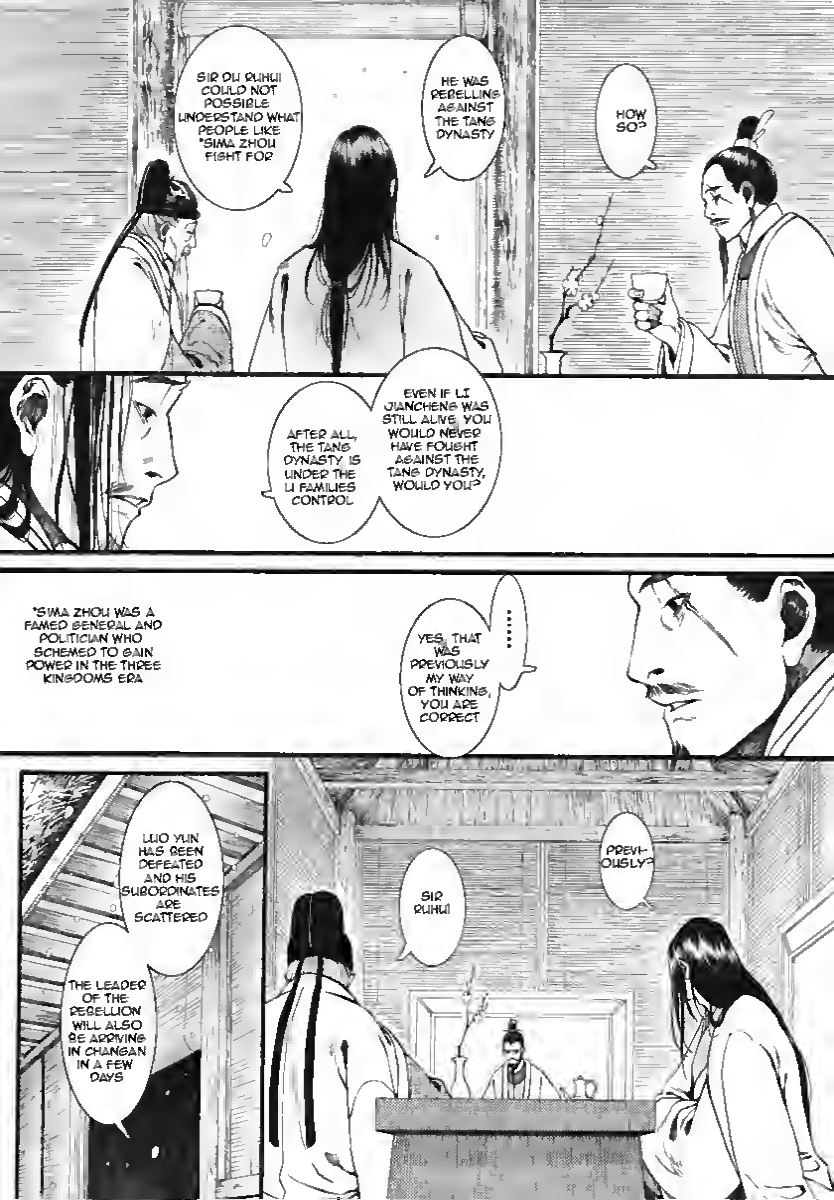
ARE THESE REALLY OUR CARTS!?
ARE THEY ALL OURS?
I'LL TELL YOU INSIDE
HORSES AND SLAVES!
THIS TOO!

YOU GUYS, DON'T ENTER UNLESS WE GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO!
YES
WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?
YOU'RE SWEATING? IS YOUR FEVER BACK?
YOUH
YOUH
YOU HAVEN'T FULLY RECOVERED YOU'LL DIE IF YOU KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF LIKE THIS!
TH THIS TENT IS FAR BETTER THAN OUR PREVIOUS ONE, RIGHT

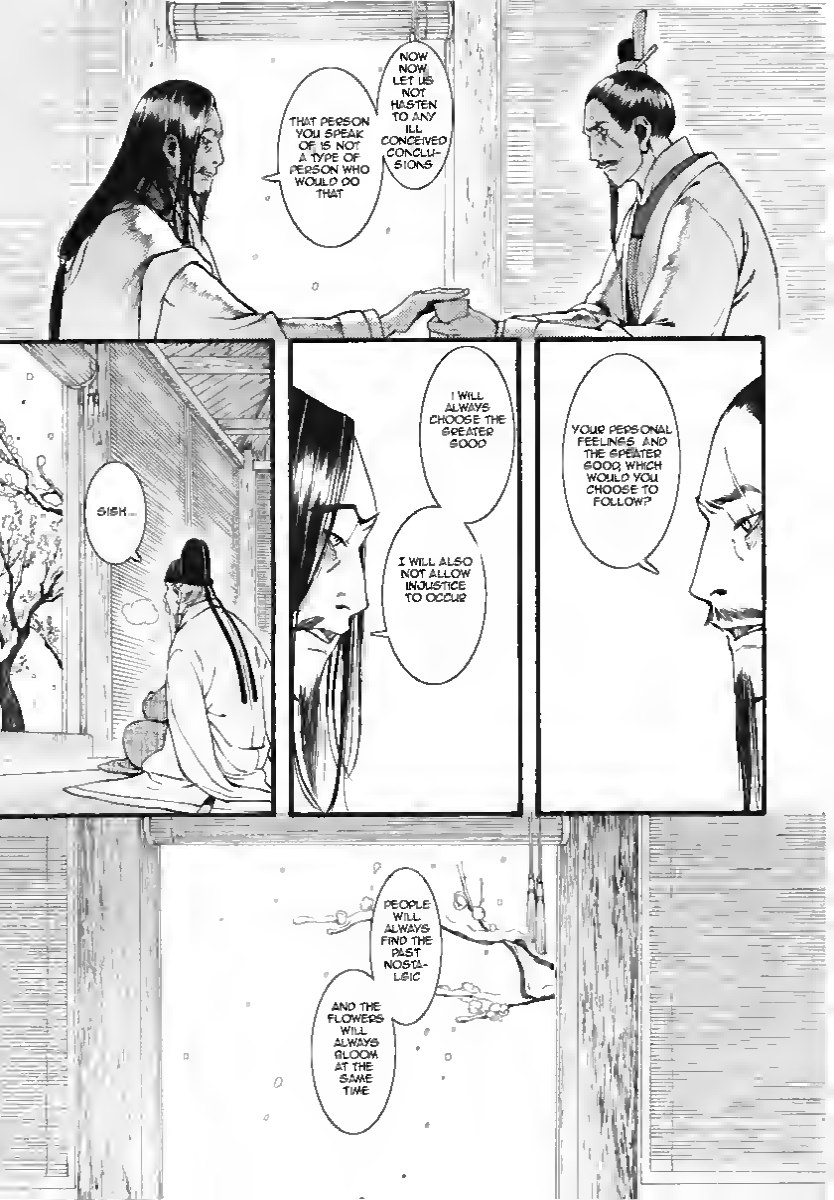
I CAN REST EASY FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS
BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE A LOT OF PREPARATIONS, WE'RE MOVING SOON
MOVING? BUT IT'S STILL WINTER
NOT TO THE GRAZING LANDS FOR SUMMER
OUR TRUE DESTINATION WILL DEPEND ON WHAT OUR LORD, CHOOSES TO DO
THE FACT THAT YOU RECEIVED A CARRIAGE MEANS THAT YOU'VE GAINED SOME RANKING WITHIN THE TURKS?
UP UNTIL YESTERDAY, WE HAD NOTHING
WHAT DID YOU DO?
...IT JUST MEANS THAT I'M OF USEFULNESS TO MY LORD

THE LESSER KHAN, IS THE ACTUAL SON OF THE LAST GREAT KHAN
WHAT I'VE HEARD, IS...
MIMI YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE LESSER KHAN, RIGHT? WHAT KIND OF A PERSON IS HE?
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CURRENT GREAT KHAN IS THE UNCLE OF THE LESSER KHAN
HE IS, AFTER THE GREAT KHAN, THE ONE THAT HAS THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF LAND, THE MOST SHEEPS AND COWS, AND HIS WARRIORS ARE AMONGST THE STRONGEST
IT IS SAID THAT HE IS THE CLOSEST TO BEING THE NEXT GREAT KHAN HIMSELF
I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

OUTSIDE THE CITY OF CHANGAN
CABIN OF THE PLUM TREE
I DO NOT REQUIRE SIR DU RUHUI TO GIVE ME ANY PRAISE
IT WAS NOT A VERY HARD MISSION FOR ME TO QUELL THE REBELLION OF THE FORMER SUBORDINATES OF LI JIANCHENG
SIR WEIZHENG NO NEED TO BE SO HUMBLE
THE REBELLION IN THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS QUELLED AND THE TURKS HAVE RETREATED
LUO YUN'S REBELLION IN THE YOU PROVINCE HAS ALSO BEEN QUELLED SO WE CAN NOW REST EASY
LUO YUN WAS NOT SOMEONE WHO BORROWED LI JIANCHENG'S NAME TO STAGE A REBELLION

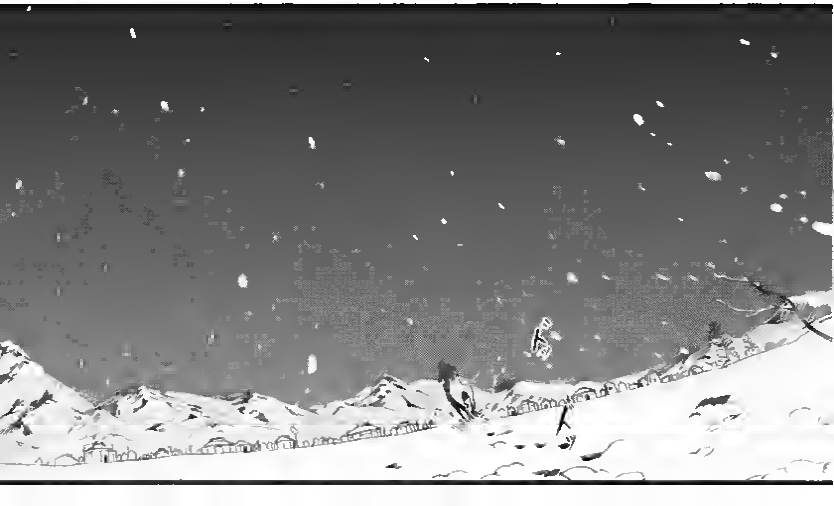

SIR DU RUHUI COULD NOT POSSIBLE UNDERSTAND WHAT PEOPLE LIKE *SIMA ZHOU FIGHT FOR
HE WAS REBELLING AGAINST THE TANG DYNASTY
HOW SO?
EVEN IF LI JIANCHENG WAS STILL ALIVE, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST THE TANG DYNASTY, WOULD YOU?
AFTER ALL, THE TANG DYNASTY IS UNDER THE LI FAMILIES CONTROL
*SIMA ZHOU WAS A FAMED GENERAL AND POLITICIAN WHO SCHEMED TO GAIN POWER IN THE THREE KINGDOMS ERA
.....
YES, THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY MY WAY OF THINKING, YOU ARE CORRECT
LUO YUN HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND HIS SUBORDINATES ARE SCATTERED
THE LEADER OF THE REBELLION WILL ALSO BE ARRIVING IN CHANGAN IN A FEW DAYS
SIR RUHUI
PREVI-OUSLY?

SURELY YOU DID NOT GATHER US HERE TO TALK ABOUT EVENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY PAST?
SONG SUN HENG OF SHUO PROVINCE PROTECTED HIS CITY IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS HEAD
AFTER WHICH, HIS SUBORDINATE, CAPTAIN LI SURRENDERED THE CITY TO THE TURKS AND EVEN WENT ALONG WITH THE TURKS
YOU ARE CORRECT, SIR FANG XUANLING
I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST, EITHER, THAT A DESCENDANT OF THE LI FAMILY WOULD DRAW AN ARROW AGAINST THE TANG DYNASTY
I'M SURE YOU TWO KNOW WHAT I AM SPEAKING OF AND I HAVE HAVE A REQUEST TO ASK OF YOU
PLEASE
DO NOT INTERFERE FROM NOW ON


NOW NOW, LET US NOT HASTEN TO ANY ILL CONCEIVED CONCLUSIONS
THAT PERSON YOU SPEAK OF IS NOT A TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD DO THAT
YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS AND THE GREATER GOOD, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW?
I WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE THE GREATER GOOD
I WILL ALSO NOT ALLOW INJUSTICE TO OCCUR
SIGH...
PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS FIND THE PAST NOSTALGIC
AND THE FLOWERS WILL ALWAYS BLOOM AT THE SAME TIME

WHEN WE GET OLDER, WE GET MORE SENTIMENTAL
IN THE PAST, EVERYONE WAS SIMILARLY TRYING TO CONQUER THE HEAVENS, WITH SUCH BRAZENESS
WE WERE YOUNG, AND DIDN'T KNOW FEAR, SO WE THOUGHT THAT WE COULD CONTROL THE KINGDOM IN ANY WAY WE WISH
BUT NOW I'M FINDING THAT I UNDERSTAND THIS MORE AND MORE
BUILDING UPON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PAST, IS THE NATURAL WAY OF THINGS. SOME THINGS ARE DESTROYED, WHILE OTHER THINGS ARE BORN
SIGH RUHU
DON'T YOU THINK IT IS ARROGANT FOR HUMANS TO TRY AND CHANGE THE WILL OF THE HEAVENS?
PEOPLE SAY THAT I HAVE A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THEM, BECAUSE OF THIS
IT WAS JIANCHENG'S SUBORDINATES WHO BROKE THESE TWO FINGERS OF MINE

A STABLE, AND UNITED KINGDOM IS ALL THAT I WISH FOR
THE ONLY THING I WANT IS FOR A RIGHTEOUS LORD TO GOVERN THE KINGDOMS
WHEN JIANCHENG AND HIS SUBORDINATES WERE DEFEATED, I FELT NO JOY
HOWEVER I FELT NO GRUDGE AGAINST THEM



GENERAL SUN!
A SUSPICIOUS TURK CONVOY IS PASSING THROUGH THE TERRITORY AND HAS SET UP CAMP NEARBY
SUSPICIOUS CONVOY?
YES, ABOUT 50 HORSES
THEY ARE HIDING OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.
THAT IS SUSPICIOUS
HOWEVER, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH WITH JUST 50 HORSES
THEY ARE PROBABLY JUST PASSING BY, BUT
TURKS WHO PASS THROUGH THESE LANDS WILL SURELY COME AND VISIT MY LORD
AND YET, THEY DO NOT COME TO MEET YOU, THIS IS STRANGE

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
SIR
I'VE SEEN A FEW OF THE FACES BEFORE DURING HUNTS
IT APPEARS THAT THE CONVOY IS HEADED BY UNDERLINGS WHO ARE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE LESSER KHAN
I MAY BE MISTAKEN SIR
.....
YES
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO OUT AND TAKE A LOOK

I SEE
YOU'D HAVE TO BE LOOKING CLOSELY TO FIND THEM
NO,
IT APPEARS THAT SOME HAN ARE MINGLED WITHIN THEM
WILL MY LORD BE GOING DOWN TO SEE THEM PERSONALLY?
THOSE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTING THAT LARGE CARRIAGE
THE PEOPLE AROUND THAT CARRIAGE ARE ALSO OF HAN DESCENT
THAT'S STRANGE
IT'S CLEAR THEY DO NOT WANT PEOPLE TO NOTICE WHERE THEY ARE, AND YET THEY TAKE ALONG PEOPLE WHO EASILY STAND OUT...

MY LORD
YEAH. IF THEY HAD USED CARRIAGES AND CLOTHING FROM THAT OF THE TURKS, THEY WOULDN'T STAND OUT AS MUCH
THAT LARGE CARRIAGE IS SUSPICIOUS
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE ARE CONNECTED WITH THE LESSER KHAN
SHALL WE GO AND TAKE A LOOK?
.....
LET'S GO!

異海

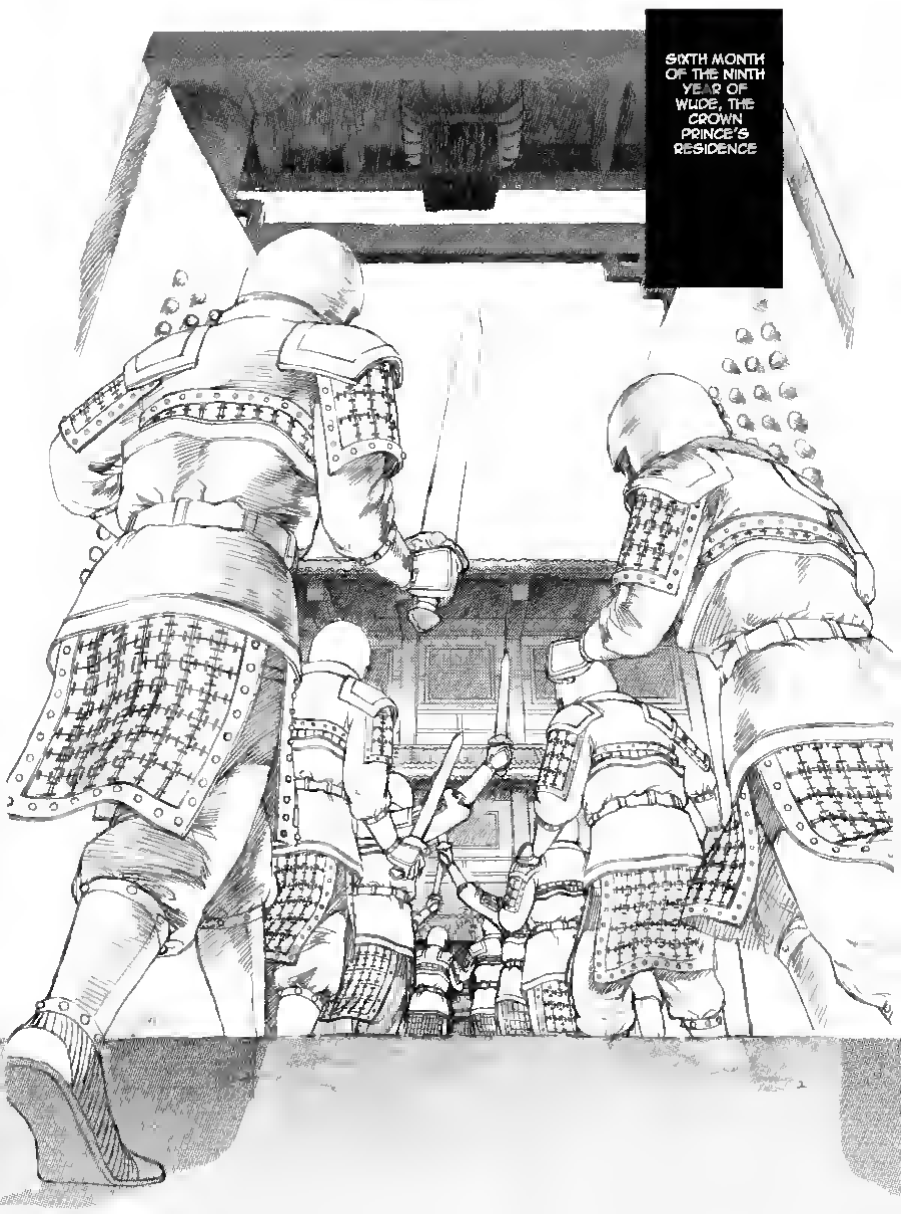
SummerZoo
in.summerzoo.com

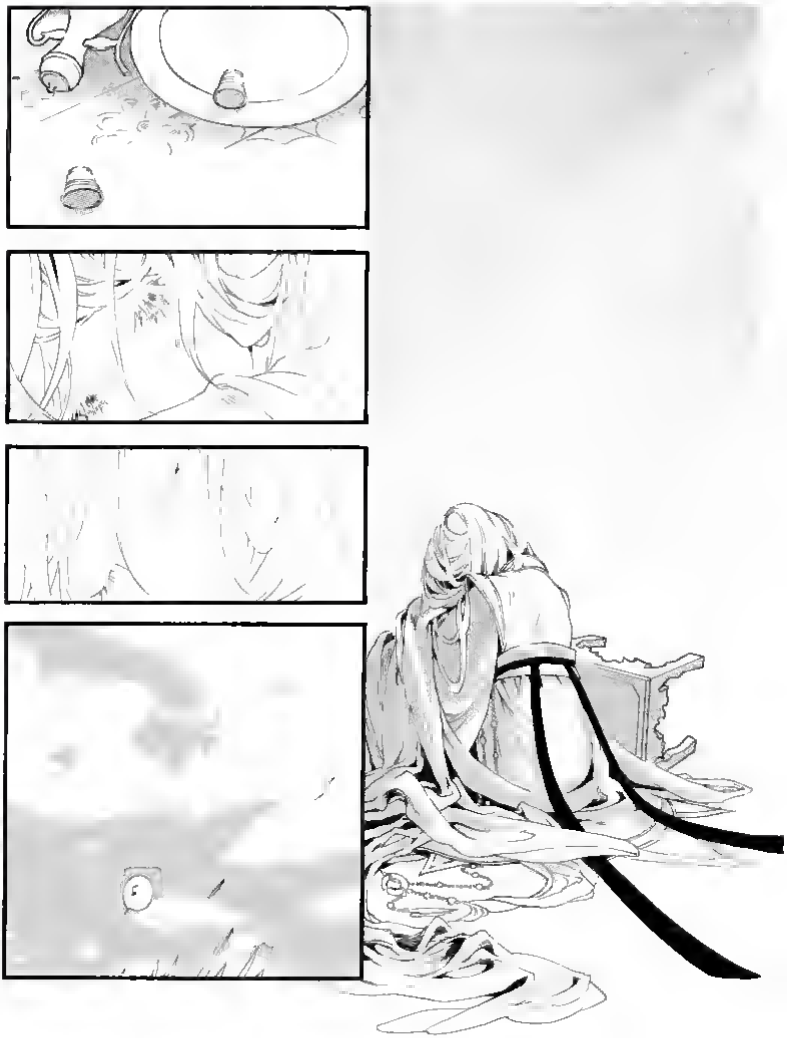
THE WU DE ERA, THE DAWN OF THE TANG DYNASTY

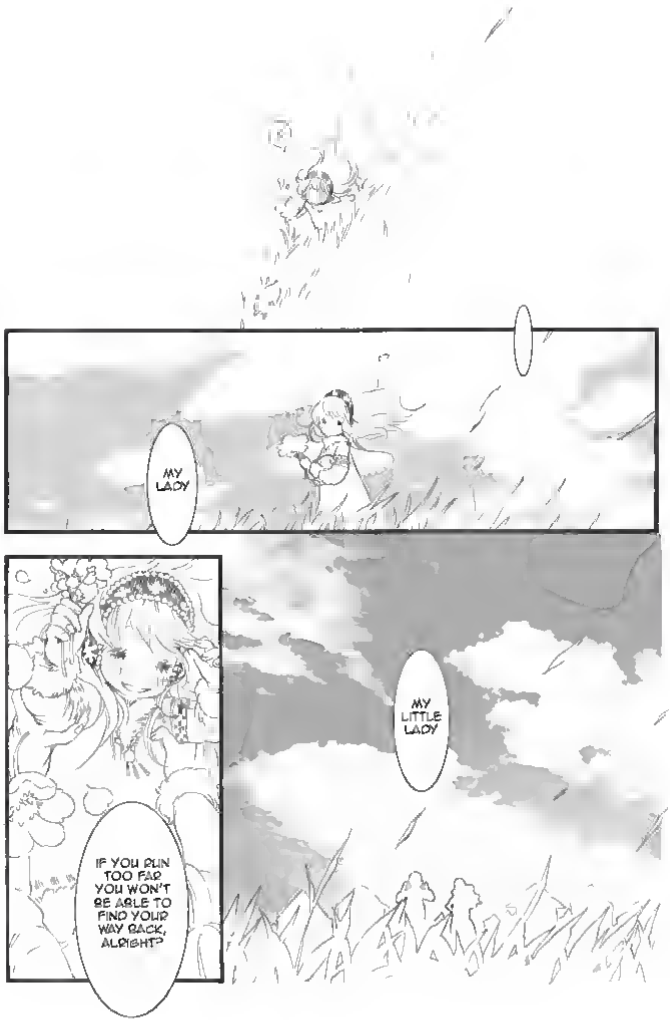
DUE TO THE FAST GROWING POPULARITY OF LI SHI MIN, SECOND SON OF LI YUAN, HIS OLDER BROTHER, CROWN PRINCE LI JIAN CHENG BEGAN CONSPIRING WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER LI YUAN JI TO UNDERMINE HIS POWER. LI YUAN'S HESITANCY AT COURT ALSO LED TO INCREASED CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS, ESCALATING THE SITUATION.

LI SHI MIN, AFTER ALMOST DYING TO AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, DECIDED TO GAMBLE EVERYTHING ON ONE TOSS OF THE DICE AND KILL LI JIAN CHENG AND LI YUANJI BEFORE THEY COULD KILL HIM. HISTORY WOULD CALL THIS THE XUANWU GATE INCIDENT

IN THE NINTH YEAR OF WU DE, LI SHI MIN ISSUES ACCUSATIONS OF TREASON AGAINST LI JIAN CHENG AND SUBSEQUENTLY, LI JIAN CHENG AND LI YUANJI WERE SUMMONED TO COURT BY THE EMPEROR. BEFORE THE TWO BROTHERS COULD ENTER THE PALACE AT XUANWU GATE, THEY WERE KILLED IN AN AMBUSH SET BY LI SHI MIN. LI JIANCHENG DIED AGED 36. HIS ENTIRE FAMILY WAS EXTERMINATED.


SIXTH MONTH OF THE NINTH YEAR OF WUDE, THE CROWN PRINCE'S RESIDENCE




MY LADY
MY LITTLE LADY
IF YOU RUN TOO FAR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK, ALRIGHT?

唯
PRINCE OF QIN...
NO, YOUR HIGHNESS, THE CROWN PRINCE

LI JIN PAYS HIS RESPECTS
FINALLY..
WHAT YOUR HIGHNESS DESIRES..
IF ONLY YOU HAD TAKEN IT SIXTEEN YEARS AGO
THE YEARS HAVE REALLY LEFT NO MARK ON YOU

COME WITH ME!
WHERE TO?
COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
LET GO!!
YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF AS MY WOMAN
INSTEAD OF FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF THE HAN,
INSOLENCE!!

HOW DARE YOU SHOW SUCH DISRESPECT TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE KHAN!
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
YOU'RE JUST SOMEONE YOUR FATHER SENT TO BE A HOSTAGE OF THE TURKS
UYGHUR BITCH!
IF I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME THEN DIE!

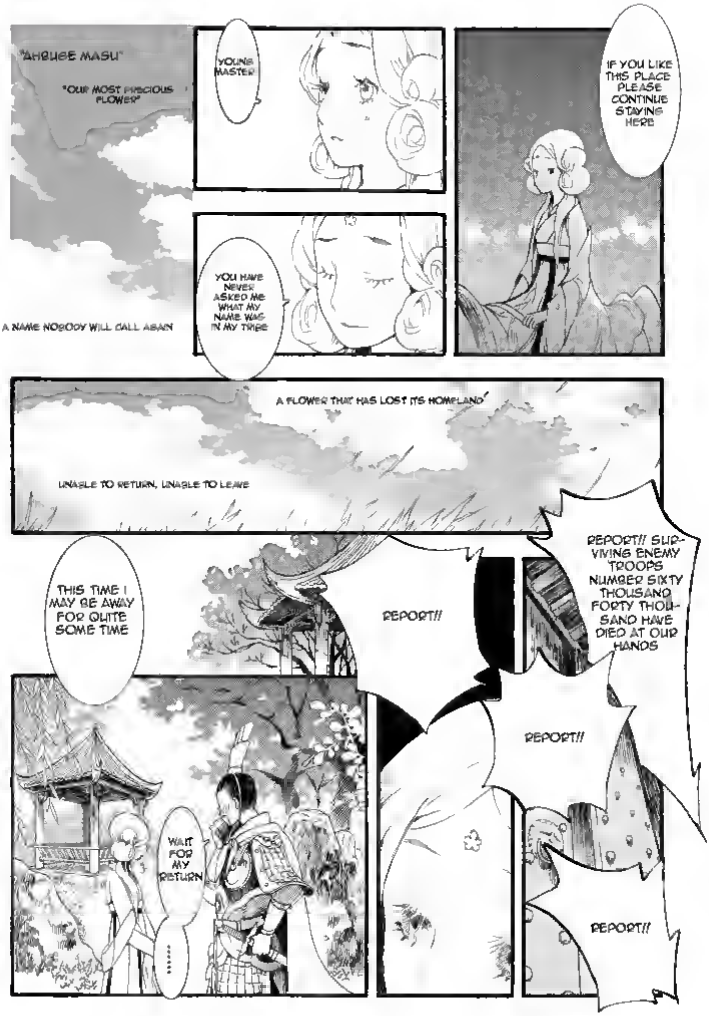
HOW COULD THE ME AT THAT TIME HAVE KNOWN,
AN UYGHUR ?
IN THAT INSTANT,
A LIFETIME WOULD PASS

THERE
SHE'S STILL HERE
EXCELLENT
YOUNG LADY
THE YOUNG MASTER TOLD US TO GET YOU
THE WESTERN REGIONS—LANDS ALL BELONG TO THE TURKS NOW
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR HOMELAND
SUCH BEAUTIFUL EYES
"EYES LIKE KUNLUN JADE" JUST LIKE WHAT THE YOUNG MASTER SAID
YOUNG LADY, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SPEAK HAN?
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

AH JIN
THIS NAME YOUR HIGHNESS BESTOWED UPON ME ACTUALLY MEANS BEAUTIFUL JADE
DID U EVER REGRET WHAT YOU DID?
YOU...
A PITY THAT BY THE TIME I REALISED THAT A LONG TIME HAD PASSED
IF ONLY I HAD ASKED YOUR HIGHNESS THEN WHAT MY NAME MEANT
FRAGRANT BEYOND MEASURE BEAUTIFUL BEYOND BELIEF
LIKE AN ORCHID IN THE MIDST OF WILD GRASS LIKE THE MOST PRECIOUS OF JADES

BUT AT THAT TIME,
JUST THE THOUGHT
WOULD SAP ME OF MY STRENGTH
SECOND YOUNG MASTER
SECOND YOUNG MASTER
COUGH
COUGH
.....
THE WEATHER IS NICE
YE..YES

HAN CLOTHING SUITS YOU
...
I WILL BE MOBILIZED IN 3 DAYS. STAY WITH THE MAID-SERVANTS HERE
MY BIG BROTHER WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU
WHO WILL YOU BE FIGHTING THIS TIME?
THE TURKS
I'LL DEAL WITH THEM AFTER I CRUSH THE TURKS
I HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF UYGHURS WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE TURKS.
TO JOIN RANKS WITH THE TURKS THOUGH THEY ARE SO FEW IN NUMBER. THEY RE SWIPLY ASKING FOR IT
AH JIN, DON'T WORRY,
WE HAVE LONG THOUGHT OF YOU AS ONE OF US NOW
MAY... MAY I ASK,
IF YOU HAVE SEEN ANY UYGHURS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD?


"AHGUEE MASU"
"OUR MOST PRECIOUS FLOWER"
A NAME NOBODY WILL CALL AGAIN
YOUNG MASTER
YOU HAVE NEVER ASKED ME WHAT MY NAME WAS IN MY TYPE
IF YOU LIKE THIS PLACE PLEASE CONTINUE STAYING HERE
A FLOWER THAT HAS LOST ITS HOMELAND
UNABLE TO RETURN, UNABLE TO LEAVE
THIS TIME I MAY BE AWAY FOR QUITE SOME TIME
WAIT FOR MY RETURN
.....
REPORT!!!
REPORT!!
REPORT!!!
REPORT!! SURVIVING ENEMY TROOPS NUMBER SIXTY THOUSAND FORTY THOUSAND HAVE DIED AT OUR HANDS

!
JIA!
WAIT FOR MY RETURN!
GIVE THE COMMAND TO SET OFF!
YES, SIR!
GENERAL!
WE NEED TO LEAVE
LI JIAN CHENG WAS PLANNING TO FORCE THE EMPEROR TO ABDICATE AFTER MY ASSASSINATION
IN THIS, HE GAVE ME NO CHOICE

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY TO THE KILLER OF YOUR HUSBAND?
YES
IF YOUR HIGHNESS DIDN'T KILL HIM FIRST, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED
MATTERS OF STATE, AND SUCCESSION,
WHAT SAY DOES A WOMAN LIKE ME HAVE OVER THESE?
THEN,
WHY DID YOU MARRY HIM?
TO YOUR HIGHNESS RIGHT NOW?
IS THAT ANSWER SO IMPORTANT,
THEN WHY...?
I HEARD OUR NEW MISTRESS HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SECOND YOUNG MASTER
IF THE LI FAMILY OBTAINS THE EMPIRE, OF COURSE IT'LL BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BE MARRIED TO THE CROWN PRINCE
SH,
BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU SAY AROUND OTHERS

BORN SO BEAUTIFUL...
SHE SURE DOESN'T LACK FOR CUNNING THOUGH...
HEH
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT SECOND BROTHER OF MINE.
WE PLANNED A VICTORY BANQUET FOR HIM UPON HIS RETURN,
BUT UPON HEARING OF OUR MARRIAGE HE SUDDENLY WENT MAD AND GALLOPED ON HIS HORSE FOR EIGHT HOURS STRAIGHT
BEFORE COLLAPSING IN A DEAD FAINT
MY WIFE, DO YOU NOT WISH TO CHECK ON HIM?
WHAT IS IT THAT MY HUSBAND WISHES TO SAY?
HAVING SPENT SO MUCH EFFORT TO OBTAIN YOU,
I WISH TO SEE IF I HAVE MANAGED TO OBTAIN YOUR HEART AS WELL

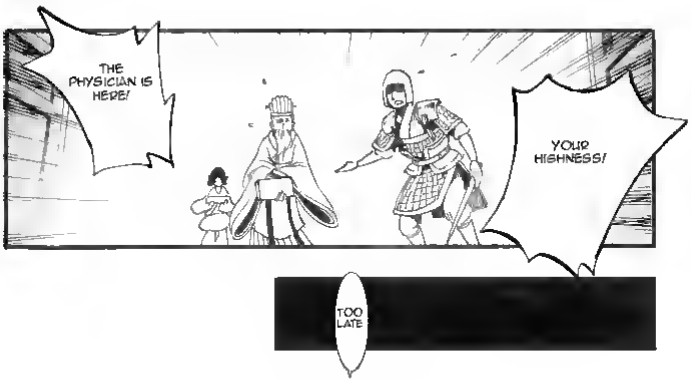
MY BODY IS HERE,
CAN MY HEART BE ELSE-WHERE?
THAT ISN'T NECES-SARILY TRUE
YES, VERY IMPORTANT
I HAVE WAITED SIXTEEN YEARS FOR THIS ANSWER
SPEAK!

DON'T LOOK AT ME!!
WHAT THE?!
POISONED WINE!
WHO GAVE IT TO YOU?!
I'LL KILL HIM!!

SUMMON THE IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN!
THE IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN!
YES, SIR!
THE ONE WHO SENT ME THE SECRET MESSAGE WARNING ME OF HIS PLANS TO ASSASSINATE ME, WAS IT YOU?
WAS IT?
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DIE!
LOOK AT ME!!
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
SOME OPPOR-TUNITIES
ONCE MISSED

I'LL NOT COME A SECOND TIME
YOUNG MASTER! WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DESIRE MOST?

TO BUILD AN EMPIRE, PROBABLY
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I WISH...
NEVER MIND, IT'S NO LONGER IMPORTANT


THE PHYSICIAN IS HERE!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
TOO LATE

SIXTEEN YEARS TOO LATE

FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, LI YUAN FORMALLY PRONOUNCED LI SHI MIN AS CROWN PRINCE AND GAVE HIM MUCH CONTROL OVER ALL MILITARY AND STATE AFFAIRS
NOT LONG AFTER, LI SHI MIN ASCENDED THE THRONE, MARKING THE START OF THE ZHENGUAN ERA. LI JIAN CHENG WAS POSTHUMOUSLY GIVEN THE TITLE OF THE PRINCE OF XI. WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A PERIOD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY. HISTORY REFERRED TO THIS PERIOD AS THE REIGN OF ZHENGUAN

CHOUKAKOU PRELUDE

END

RAWS FROM: U17.COM

TRANSLATED BY: PENGUINSINTHEBASEMENT